

1929.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1928.

[In continuation of E.-1, 1928.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

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Office of the Department of Education,
YOUR EXCELLENCY,—Wellington, 29th June, 1929.

I have the honour, in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act, 1914, to submit to Your Excellency the following report upon the progress and condition of public education in New Zealand during the year ending the 31st December, 1928.

I have, &c.,

HARRY ATMORE.

His Excellency the Governor-General of the
Dominion of New Zealand.

REPORT.

INTRODUCTORY AND GENERAL.

THE scheme inaugurated by my predecessor, and referred to in last year's report, for securing better articulation between the primary and post-primary schools, and for bringing the education system into closer touch with the life of the people, was advanced a further stage during the past year. A new syllabus of instruction for primary schools, prepared partly by a special committee of educationists and business men, but mainly by the Department's own Inspectors of Schools, was issued early last year for the general information of teachers, and was formally adopted as from the beginning of the present year. Provision was made in the new syllabus whereby the brighter pupils might make an earlier commencement of the study of subjects that had heretofore been regarded as falling within the province of the post-primary schools. At the same time the curriculum was enriched for all pupils by ensuring that more attention should be given to the study of English literature and to such cultural subjects as music and drawing. Teachers were enjoined to plan their schemes of work in such a way as to make the course of study of living interest to the pupils. To this end the prescriptions of work set forth in the syllabus aimed to have their counterpart in the pupils' environment and generally in the actual life of the people. The new syllabus also went further than any of its predecessors in extending to teachers a considerable measure of freedom to draw up their own schemes of instruction, with due regard to the interest of the pupils and to the environment in which they lived. It has frequently been said that, although the New Zealand education system is undoubtedly an efficient one, it has shown too great a tendency towards rigidity. It was the aim of the new syllabus to remove this defect, and it is hoped that teachers will avail themselves as fully as is wise and reasonable of the freedom thus offered them.

With regard to the post-primary schools, it is noteworthy that there is a marked tendency for the secondary schools and the technical high schools to draw more closely together. In one case—namely, at New Plymouth—the two institutions have been amalgamated, and placed under the control of one Board instead of two separate Boards, and the experiment is being watched with interest. In Oamaru the Waitaki High Schools Board assumed control of the technical education in the locality, and it is hoped that further advance in the direction of unification of control will presently be effected. There appears very good reason why post-primary education, at all events, if not all branches of education, should be under one controlling body. I propose to explore the possibilities in this direction at a very early date. The rapid growth of technical high schools, particularly in the cities, is a good indication of the awakening of the people to the advantages of a more practical type of instruction than has been traditionally given in the past in secondary schools, but even in the latter there is a growing tendency on the part of the teachers and the controlling authorities to provide courses of manual training. There still remain, however, marked evidences of weakness in our post-primary scheme of education, inasmuch as many children who show little aptitude for purely literary studies still embark upon them without being able to make satisfactory progress. There is urgent need in the school system for what may be called a "trying-out ground" where pupils can have an opportunity at as early a stage as possible to discover their aptitudes, and subsequently embark on advanced courses that are congenial to them, and which will enable them to reach a type of employment that will be of benefit both to themselves and to the country as a whole. This is undoubtedly the best type of vocational guidance that can be given in the schools. I trust that it will be possible during the next few years to make a definite advance in this direction.

The difficulty experienced by children in remote parts of the country in securing post-primary education has been met during the year in various ways—namely, by the establishment of additional district high schools, by the provision of secondary courses of instruction in country schools, by consolidation, and in the case of the most remote districts by the provision of secondary courses of instruction by the Department's Correspondence School. So far as funds permit, the policy of consolidating small schools will be continued, while the staffs of country schools will be further strengthened by the provision of trained certificated teachers in as many cases as possible. It is gratifying to note that the number of uncertificated teachers in country districts has been substantially reduced, and the young teachers who are now sent out by the training colleges are well able to give efficient instruction in secondary subjects.

Efficient courses of instruction in rural subjects, such as elementary agriculture and dairy science, have been prepared by the Inspectors and agriculture instructors, and are in operation in all primary schools. In many of the higher schools similar courses are provided, but there is no doubt that more should be done in this direction in order that the high schools may provide a good grounding in those subjects upon a knowledge of which depends the prosperity of the primary industries of the country. I propose that all types of schools shall play their part as effectively as possible in counteracting the undoubtedly dangerous drift of population from the country to the towns. It must be understood, however, that while the schools can give material assistance in this matter, the problem is not purely an educational one, as it is indispensable that boys and girls after being trained in rural pursuits shall be given an opportunity to make a comfortable living on the land. In this connection it is interesting to note that the Government has placed land-settlement in the forefront of its policy, and will vigorously foster it in any and every way that is feasible. In the Budget presented by the Right Hon. the Minister of Finance an intimation is given that in addition to existing authorities, the House will be asked to authorize the borrowing of up to £5,000,000 for land-settlement. A special Land Development Branch of the State Advances Office is to be set up for the purpose of assisting those who are willing to take up and develop sections of waste land, and the Government intend to proceed resolutely with the cutting-up of large estates suitable for closer settlement.

During the year Government grants to University colleges were consolidated with the object of putting the finances of each of these institutions on a sounder footing. The activities of the newly established Massey Agricultural College were further extended, and it was gratifying to note the popularity of the short courses provided at this college for the benefit of those actually engaged in the dairying, pastoral, and agricultural industries. Assistance was also given to the Canterbury Agricultural College to improve its courses. It may not be generally realized, although the matter was referred to in last year's report, that the State gives very liberal assistance to students desiring to undertake University courses. Last year fifteen held agricultural bursaries, eighteen engineering bursaries, fifty-six home-science bursaries, sixty-six educational bursaries, while 1,628 secured free University education by holding University bursaries or teachers' training college studentships. The total number of free students at University colleges was 1,893, or 44 per cent. of the whole—27 per cent. men and 17 per cent. women. During the last session of Parliament the University Act was amended in order, amongst other things, to provide for the appointment of a University officer who should take charge, under the authority of the Council, of the activities of the University. The main functions of the University remain unchanged—namely, the holding of examinations for degrees and diplomas. The University is not a teaching body, nor does it at present, at all events, exercise much control over the activities of the four constituent University colleges. The University Act of 1926, following on the University Commission report of 1925, gave the University power to exercise a certain degree of control; but the Council, after thoroughly debating the matter, decided that the constituent colleges should not be interfered with, but that the University should be satisfied with the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor to manage its own affairs. There are certain disadvantages in the Government not being able to look

to the central University for authoritative recommendations regarding the development of University work in each of the four centres, as there is an ever-present danger of local ambition leading to wasteful duplication of University activities.

The activities of the Child Welfare Branch of the Education Department were considerably extended during the year in consequence of the operations of the amended provisions of the Child Welfare Act. The Children's Courts are in general functioning successfully, and every effort is being made by the Department's officers to secure control or supervision of wayward children before they actually commence a career of delinquency. The retention of wards of the State in society, instead of placing them in institutions, continues to be the policy of the Department. The education and care of feeble-minded children has been further systematized with the help of the Mental Hospitals Department, and the policy of establishing special classes for mentally deficient children has been followed in all the principal centres of population. Last year there were in operation twenty-five such classes, providing a type of education suited to the capacity of the pupils, and calculated to prepare them as far as might be for profitable employment after they had left school. Such children have been found not only to mark time in the ordinary school classes, but to suffer through the lack of specialized training. This section of the Department's activities must be regarded as of high social importance, and further extension of the work will be made as circumstances permit.

The Native schools, of which there were 134 in operation during the year, continue to provide full opportunity for Maori children to compete on favourable terms with the pakeha. Post-primary education is available for the Natives in all the higher State schools and in the University colleges, and a considerable number attend State-aided schools where practical courses of instruction are given. Consideration is being given at the present time to a further extension of facilities whereby Maori boys and girls may have the advantage of practical training after they complete their course in the Native primary schools. It is interesting to note that last year 54 per cent. of the Native children receiving primary instruction attended the ordinary State primary schools, and were educated side by side with the children of the pakeha.

COST OF EDUCATION.

The appendix to this report shows in detail, under various headings, the expenditure on education during the financial year ended 31st March, 1929. The total expenditure, including endowment revenue, amounted to £3,962,979, as against £3,847,545 in the previous year, an increase of £115,434. If from the total sum of £3,962,979 expended on education in 1928-29 is deducted the sum of £375,282 spent on buildings, the net amount remaining is £3,587,697, which is equivalent to £2 9s. 3d. per head of the mean population of New Zealand (1,455,734) for the year 1928. The cost per head in the previous year, excluding cost of buildings, was £2 8s. 4d. The expenditure per head of mean population on the main branches of education in 1928 was (exclusive of expenditure on new buildings) as follows: Primary, £1 11s. 10d.; secondary, 5s. 9d.; technical, 2s. 9d.; higher education, 2s. 1d.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND SITES.

The policy of the Department has been to give precedence to applications for new schools where none at present exist, and to additions to schools where the existing accommodation is insufficient for the requirements of the district. As in the past, a very much larger sum has on this account been spent in the newly settled districts of the North Island than has been expended in the older-established districts of the South Island. The amount required for these necessary works has absorbed a considerable proportion of the funds allotted to the Department for the financial year.

Model schools have been established in connection with the Auckland Training College; a new infant department at Meadowbank, Auckland; a new school at Awapuni, Gisborne; and separate secondary departments at Te Karaka and Wairoa, Hawke's Bay, and at Fairlie, Canterbury. Additions have been provided at

Taumarunui, New Lynn, Papatoetoe, Ellerslie, Hikurangi, Morrinsville, and Otorohanga, Auckland Education District; at Mahora, Hawke's Bay; and at Elmwood, Canterbury. Numerous small works both as regards new schools and additions have also been undertaken.

The policy adopted in the previous year of remodelling schools of Grade IIIB and upwards so as to provide a separate room for each teacher on the staff, irrespective of the question as to the total floor-space of the school buildings, has been continued, and there are now comparatively few schools, with the exception of Grade IIIA, where two teachers are compelled to teach in one room. It is hoped that the policy will be extended in the near future to Grade IIIA schools. In numerous other cases a certain amount of remodelling, particularly as regards lighting and ventilation, has been undertaken at the same time as additions to the building have been carried out, and still other schools of an obsolete type have been remodelled with a view to providing improved conditions. Among such schools may be mentioned those of Castlecliff and Manunui, in the Wanganui District; Westport, Nelson District; Rakaia, Canterbury District; and Otautau, Southland District. The Department has found it impossible, through lack of funds, to carry on during the financial year with its policy of replacing one of the large obsolete city schools in each of the four centres, but it is hoped that this policy will be renewed at least in part during the present year.

In certain districts an insistent demand for the provision of open-air class-rooms has been made, and in order to test the relative advantage to children of such class-rooms the Department has encouraged their erection in suitable localities. A careful comparison is being instituted with regard to the regularity of attendance, the frequency of sickness, &c., in such open-air schools as compared with the Department's latest type of fresh-air class-room, and by this means it is hoped that it will soon become apparent as to which type is most suited to the conditions of New Zealand and in which localities open-air schools should be erected.

In accordance with the Department's policy of recent years, school-sites have been obtained, particularly in suburban areas, in advance of settlement. Although the cost of purchase of such sites has been a considerable drain on the funds allocated for the financial year, it would have been very much larger had the Department delayed purchasing until after the sites had been built on. Moreover, the Department has had access to subdivision plans, and has thus been enabled to secure in advance sites centrally situated for the future school population.

The establishment of commercial classes in district high schools and the difficulty of placing young people in suitable positions owing to the present unemployment have resulted in a marked increase in the attendance in secondary departments of district high schools, with the result that increased accommodation in a number of these schools was the subject of careful consideration during the financial year.

The following table shows for the year ending 31st March, 1929, the amount expended by the Department on new buildings, additions, sites, and teachers' residences :—

	£				
Primary schools	..	..	..	..	247,348
Secondary schools	..	..	..	..	44,382
Technical schools	..	..	..	..	23,281
Training colleges	..	..	..	..	2,223
Universities	..	..	..	..	1,564
Native schools	..	..	..	..	6,044
Special schools	..	..	..	..	12,277
Free kindergartens	..	..	..	..	967
Massey Agricultural College	..	..	..	..	32,546
Canterbury Agricultural College	..	..	..	..	4,650
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>£375,282</u>

PUPILS IN ATTENDANCE AT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

The following table shows the number of persons, by ages, who, on the 30th June, 1928, were receiving instruction at recognized educational institutions in New Zealand. The figures are exclusive of students in attendance at University colleges and of children in attendance at free and private kindergarten schools:—

Type of School.	Total Number in Attendance.	Children.				Adolescents.				Adults.				
		Under 10 Years.	10-11 Years.	11-12 Years.	12-13 Years.	13-14 Years.	14-15 Years.	15-16 Years.	16-17 Years.	17-18 Years.	18-19 Years.	19-20 Years.	20-21 Years.	21 Years and over.
Public primary schools	211,489	116,620	23,183	24,145	22,169	16,521	7,088	1,554	191	17 and over. 18	..	..	..	..
Special classes for backward children ..	386	105	46	63	62	55	37	15	3	..	..	..	..	..
Native schools	6,734	3,514	733	761	735	565	313	113	..	..	..	..	..	..
Junior high schools	2,395	..	Under 11. 70	428	717	700	360	120	..	..	..	..	..	..
Secondary departments of district high schools	4,201	..	..	Under 12. 18	204	887	1,244	1,068	524	197	18 and over. 59	..	..	..
Secondary schools	15,462	..	..	Under 12. 39	536	2,656	4,310	3,973	2,422	1,115	18 and over. 411	..	..	..
Technical high and day schools ..	7,214	..	..	Under 12. 14	289	1,505	2,478	1,751	746	298	18 and over. 133	..	..	..
Technical classes (part-time students at day and night classes)	10,693	..	..	Under 12. 52	77	262	858	1,612	1,895	1,709	1,310	895	501	1,792
Private primary schools	26,394	13,268	2,936	2,983	2,994	2,301	1,283	436	115	17 and over. 78	..	..	..	..
Private secondary schools	3,506	..	..	Under 12. 18	134	399	825	887	686	393	18 and over. 164	..	..	..
Training colleges	1,115	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	122	311	354	317
Schools for the feeble-minded ..	242	17	13	18	14	25	23	19	16	14	14	19	9	41
School for the Deaf	110	48	6	14	9	16	11	3	2	..	..	..	..	1
Institute for the Blind	20*	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	5	2	1	..	..	..
Grand total	289,961	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

* Government free pupils only.

KINDERGARTEN SCHOOLS.

While the Department does not undertake the establishment of kindergarten schools, it has for some years past rendered financial assistance by way of subsidy and capitation to kindergarten schools conducted by recognized kindergarten associations. To obtain recognition by the Department an association must satisfy the Department that its business is not conducted for private profit, that the school in respect to which the payment of grants is desired is necessary in the locality in which it is situated, that the building and equipment are suitable, that the teaching staff is adequate and the instruction efficient. No fees shall be payable by pupils attending a recognized kindergarten school.

Capitation payable is limited to £4 for each pupil in average attendance, and £1 5s. for every £1 raised by voluntary contributions and expended on the maintenance of the schools during any year. In addition, subsidies not exceeding £1 for £1 may be paid on voluntary contributions raised by an association and expended on buildings, sites, and equipment approved by the Minister of Education. During 1928 seven associations were recognized by the Department, and a sum of £4,331 was paid as capitation and £967 as building subsidy.

The number of pupils in attendance at schools conducted in 1928 by the recognized associations, and the average attendance of such pupils, were as follows:—

Association.			Pupils on Roll at end of 1928.	Average Attendance, 1928.
Auckland	..	..	420	291
Hastings	..	..	37	26
Hutt Valley	..	..	59	45
Wellington	..	..	303	238
Christchurch	..	..	325	230
Dunedin	..	..	322	233
Invercargill	..	..	94	78
			1,560	1,141

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The numbers of public schools open at the end of 1928 was 2,598, three less than in the previous year. In the following table the schools are classified according to their grade, and the yearly average attendance and the number of children per teacher are shown.

Grade of School, and Range of Average Attendance.	Number of Schools.*	Total Average Attendance.†			Average Number of Children per Adult Teacher in Primary Department.‡
		Primary Department.	Secondary Department.	Total.	
0 (1-8)	253	1,515	..	1,515	6
I (9-20)	787	11,370	..	11,370	14
II (21-35)	514	13,780	..	13,780	25
III _A (36-50)	297	13,284	..	13,284	23
III _B (51-80)	254	15,817	37	15,854	30
III _C (81-120)	133	12,867	160	13,027	32
IV _A (121-160)	61	8,381	194	8,575	35
IV _B (161-200)	32	5,551	279	5,830	
IV _C (201-240)	39	8,886	716	9,602	
V _A (241-280)	26	6,908	413	7,321	41
V _B (281-320)	19	5,811	158	5,969	
V _C (321-360)	31	10,532	473	11,005	
VI _A (361-400)	19	7,045	244	7,289	44
VI _B (401-440)	27	11,497	398	11,895	
VI _C (441-480)	12	5,564	127	5,691	
VII _A (481-520)	16	7,851	78	7,929	43
VII _B (521-560)	14	7,438	122	7,560	
VII _C (561-600)	18	10,315	86	10,401	
VII _D (601-640)	16	9,871	241	10,112	43
VII _E (641-680)	11	7,241	..	7,241	
VII _F (681-720)	9	6,288	..	6,288	
VII _G (721-760)	3	2,228	..	2,228	43
VII _H (761-800)	4	2,972	..	2,972	
VII _I (801-840)	2	1,539	..	1,539	
VII _J (841-880)	..	..	..	..	..
VII _K (881-920)	1	860	..	860	
VII _L (921-960)	..	..	..	..	
Totals, 1928	2,598	195,411	3,726	199,137	32
Totals, 1927	2,601	192,284	3,457	195,741	32
Difference	-3	+3,127	+269	+3,396	..

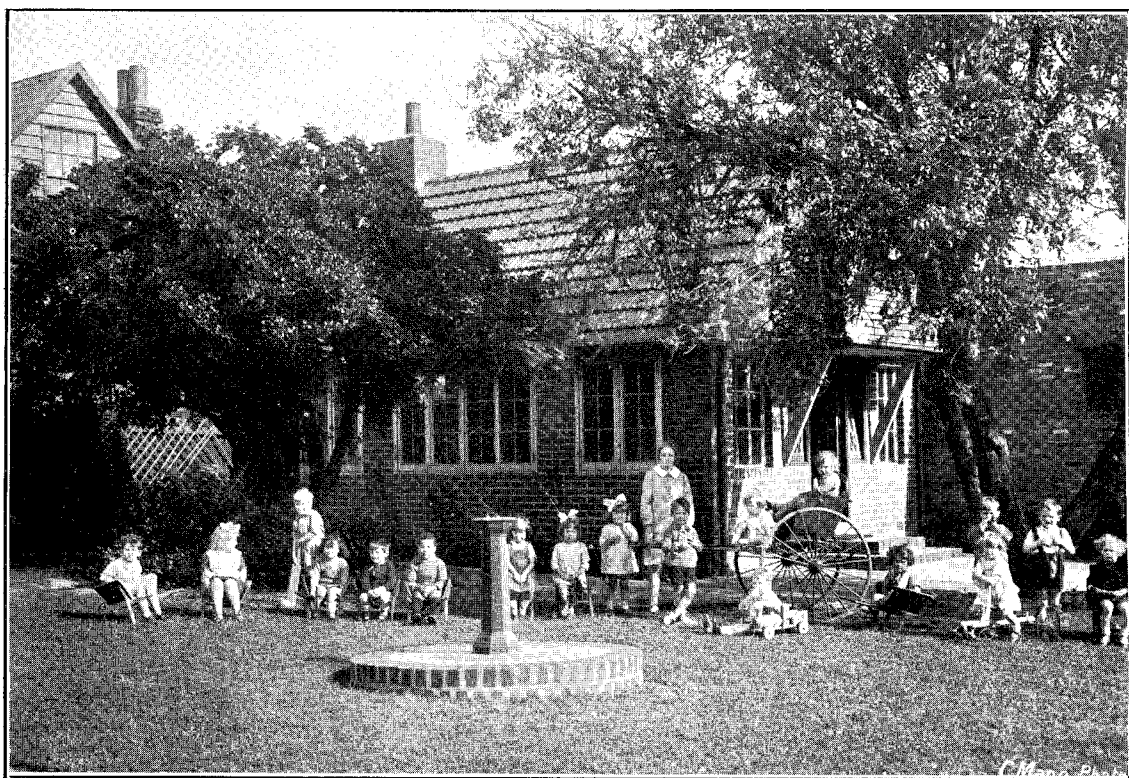
* Half-time, main, and side schools are counted as separate schools.

† The average attendance shown under this heading is the average attendance for the year ended 30th September, 1928, computed and adjusted in accordance with the regulations governing the staffing of schools. The unadjusted total average attendance for the year ended 31st December, 1928, was—primary departments, 193,420, and secondary departments, 3,763.

‡ Head teachers are counted as class-teachers up to and including Grade V schools that are not district high schools

From the foregoing table it will be seen that 1,554 schools, or more than half the total number, each had an average attendance of less than thirty-six pupils. These schools are sole-teacher schools, and the total average attendance at such schools in 1928 was 26,665. Eliminating from the above table the details in respect to sole-teacher schools, the position regarding the remaining schools may be summarized as follows :—

	Total Average Attendance. (Primary.)	Average Number of Children per Adult Teacher.
Grades III-VII (two or more teachers)	168,746	37
Grades V-VII (six or more teachers)	103,960	43
All schools (Grades 0-VII)	195,411	32



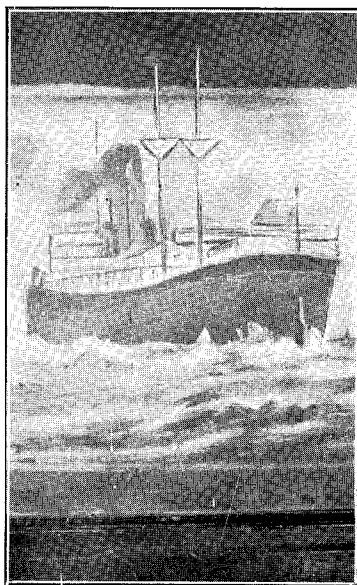
A FREE KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL—TARANAKI STREET, WELLINGTON.

[C. Mann, photo.]

E.—1.



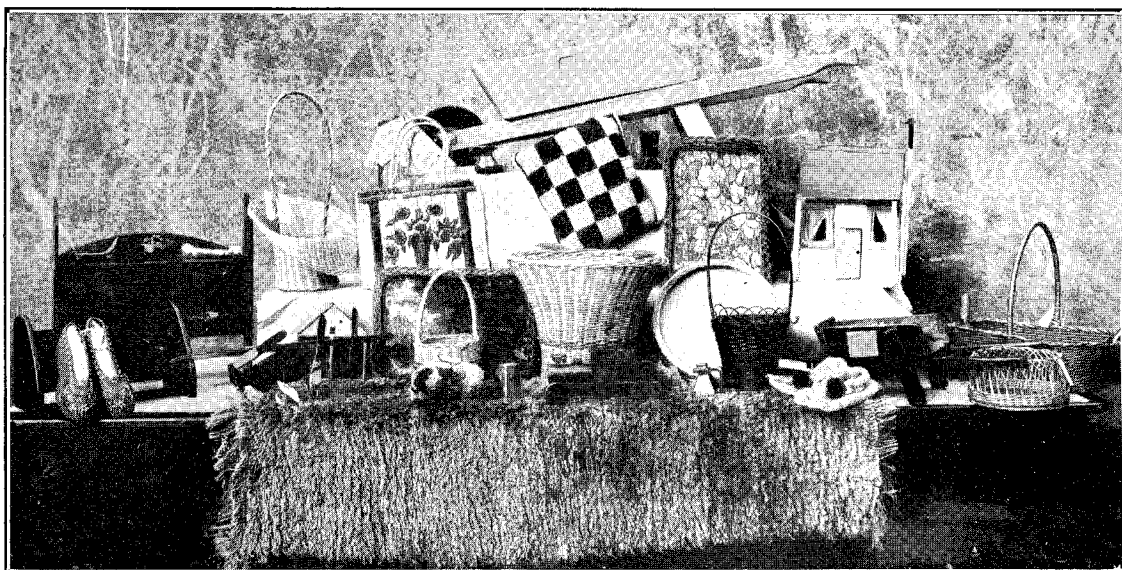
PUPILS SPINNING WOOL.



A PUPIL'S DRAWING.
(Special classes develop artistic ability.)



A PUPIL AT THE LOOM.



AN EXHIBIT OF PUPILS' WORK.



PUPILS IN THEIR GARDEN PLOT.

WORK IN SPECIAL CLASSES FOR BACKWARD CHILDREN.

ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE.

The total enrolment in public primary schools (including junior high schools conducted by the Auckland Education Board) at the end of the year 1928 was 218,794, a decrease of 1,151 when compared with the figures for the previous year. This is the first occasion since 1900 that a decrease in the number of pupils enrolled has been recorded.

Regularity of Attendance.—The regularity of attendance has continued at a highly satisfactory figure, the average attendance for the year 1928 being 90·2 per cent. of the average weekly roll number, an increase of 1 per cent. over the figure for the previous year. The Otago Education District, with 92·4 per cent., had the highest degree of regularity, but the figures for all districts are creditable, in no case falling below 88·9 per cent.

The relative responsibilities of the nine Education Boards may be gauged from the following figures, which are exclusive of the secondary departments of district high schools :—

Education District.	Enrolment.			Schools, 1928 (excluding Grade 0).	Adult Teachers, 1928.
	1923.	1928.	Percentage Increase, Five Years.		
Auckland	63,598	67,600*	6	704	1,900
Taranaki	11,341	11,830	4	161	375
Wanganui	16,499	17,129	4	192	506
Hawke's Bay	15,849	16,443	4	157	479
Wellington	26,311	28,152	7	231	779
Nelson	7,072	6,973	—1	115	253
Canterbury	37,131	37,373	1	375	1,053
Otago	21,845	20,957	—4	231	617
Southland	12,314	12,337	†	179	379
Totals	211,960	218,794	3	2,345	6,341

* Includes 1,271 pupils in attendance at junior high schools conducted by the Auckland Education Board. † No significant movement.

The more pronounced increase in the North Island districts is, of course, a natural corollary to the northward trend of the population. It will be observed that the Auckland District accounts for 59 per cent. of the increase for the Dominion.

The percentage increase in the number of primary-school children over five-yearly periods has been steadily diminishing in recent years, as the following figures will show. In these figures due cognizance has been taken of pupils in Forms I and II of junior high schools, since these children would, in the absence of such schools, have enrolled at primary schools.

Period.	Percentage Increase in Roll Number.
1918-23	10
1919-24	10
1920-25	9
1921-26	6
1922-27	5
1923-28	4

This diminution in the percentage increase in the school roll is, in the main, the result of the falling birth-rate which has been recorded in recent years. The ratio of children of school age (5 years to 13 years) to total population has fallen noticeably since the census of 1916, as the following figures will show :—

Census.	Number of Children between 5 Years and 13 Years per 100 of Population.
1916	19·3
1921	18·9
1926	17·9

The latest figures published by the Government Statistician show that the birth-rate is still declining, and the diminution of percentage increase in the primary-school roll number from year to year can, in consequence, be expected to continue.

AGE AND CLASSIFICATION OF PUPILS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT 30TH JUNE, 1928 (EXCLUSIVE OF PUPILS IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS OR IN SECONDARY DEPARTMENTS OF DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS).

Ages.	Special Classes for backward children.		Class P.		Standard I.		Standard II.		Standard III.		Standard IV.		Standard V.		Standard VI.		Standard VII.		Totals.	
	Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
5 and under 6	1	5	10,115	9,260	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,117	9,268
6 "	3	2	12,248	11,176	546	722	9	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,806	11,907
7 "	12	8	7,288	5,848	4,845	5,057	953	1,073	37	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,135	12,018
8 "	17	12	2,292	1,573	4,962	4,465	4,569	4,986	787	915	28	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,655	11,980
9 "	30	15	582	371	1,855	1,347	4,540	3,850	4,094	4,494	709	901	31	20	..	..	..	..	11,841	10,998
10 "	31	15	176	128	615	382	2,101	1,559	4,763	4,345	3,592	4,107	632	711	28	43	..	1	11,938	11,291
11 "	44	19	63	66	188	140	716	481	2,675	2,191	4,554	4,415	3,473	3,772	640	762	3	6	12,356	11,852
12 "	35	27	36	37	78	56	226	163	1,127	731	2,724	2,198	4,350	4,283	2,942	3,146	34	38	11,552	10,679
13 "	28	27	9	11	36	26	86	69	430	260	1,207	922	2,794	2,365	4,081	4,030	81	114	8,752	7,824
14 "	26	11	7	1	13	3	29	14	113	69	360	197	1,107	743	2,458	1,807	80	87	4,193	2,932
15 "	13	2	1	2	6	1	7	1	13	8	53	30	242	90	697	346	23	34	1,055	514
16 "	1	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	1	7	3	35	10	84	35	6	6	136	58
17 years and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	1	8	1	1	2	12	6
Totals	241	145	32,817	28,474	13,146	12,201	13,236	12,204	14,041	13,046	13,234	12,804	12,667	11,995	10,938	10,170	228	288	110,548	101,327
Median age in years and months of pupils in each class	11 7	11 10	6 6	6 5	8 3	8 1	9 3	9 0	10 5	10 3	11 6	11 4	12 6	12 4	13 5	13 3	13 11	13 10		

AGE AND CLASSIFICATION OF PUPILS.

The table on the previous page classifies, according to age and standard of education, the whole of the pupils who were in attendance at public primary schools at the 30th June, 1928. The table does not give a reliable basis for estimating the extent of retardation in the public schools, since there are included children who on account of racial difficulties, or sickness, or mental deficiency, or similar cause have either entered school late or have suffered breaks in their school career.

The percentage distribution of pupils amongst the various classes and age groups was as follows :—

Class.				Percentage of Total Roll.	Age Group.				Percentage of Total Roll.
Special classes for backward children				.. 0.2	5-6	..	..	..	9.1
Primer				.. 28.9	6-7	..	..	..	11.7
Standard	I	..	..	.. 11.9	7-8	..	..	..	11.9
	II	..	..	.. 12.1	8-9	..	..	..	11.6
	III	..	..	.. 12.8	9-10	..	..	..	10.8
	IV	..	..	.. 12.3	10-11	..	..	..	11.0
	V	..	..	.. 11.6	11-12	..	..	..	11.4
	VI	..	..	.. 10.0	12-13	..	..	..	10.5
	VII	..	..	.. 0.2	13-14	..	..	..	7.8
				100.0	14-15	..	..	..	3.4
					15-16	..	..	..	0.7
					Over 16	..	..	..	0.1
									100.0

SPECIAL CLASSES FOR BACKWARD CHILDREN.

The establishment of special classes for backward children has been continued, and the many requests for such classes have necessitated the appointment of an assistant supervisor. On the 30th June, 1928, there were 386 children (241 boys and 145 girls) enrolled in special classes. A training course, held in Wellington in February, was attended by thirty-three teachers. Of this number, twenty-one were already engaged in teaching backward children, five were beginning for the first time on the 1st March, 1929, and the remainder hope to be employed on this work as opportunity arises. The question occupying the minds of all interested in the mentally handicapped is the employment of these children when school-days are over. The establishment of after-care associations similar to those working in England and Scotland is receiving the consideration of those interested in the work, and it is anticipated that some definite suggestions will be acted upon in the coming year. Another question under consideration is the education of those children whose abilities are too limited for them to derive benefit from the special class. The Department recognizes that something must be done to meet the needs of these children, and is co-operating with the Mental Deficiency Board in the matter. The education of backward children living in the country is a difficult problem that will have to be solved in the future.

ELIMINATION OF LARGE CLASSES.

During the year the gradual elimination of large classes was proceeded with, and, having regard to the many difficulties in the way, reasonable progress was made. In February, 1928, 67 per cent. of the classes in public schools of Grade IV and over had more than forty children, and 3 per cent. had more than sixty. By February, 1929, the percentage of classes with over forty pupils had been reduced to 64, and the percentage of classes with over sixty pupils had been reduced to 2. Since the beginning of 1929 the Department has approved of the appointment of more than one hundred additional assistants, so that there should, when this report is published, be no class of more than sixty pupils in the Dominion.

The following table shows the progress that has been made since 1924 in the elimination of large classes :—

SIZE OF CLASSES OF SCHOOLS OF GRADE IV AND OVER.

Number of Children.	1924.		February, 1928.		February, 1929.	
	Number of Classes.	Per Cent.	Number of Classes.	Per Cent.	Number of Classes.	Per Cent.
Under 31	124	5	204	7	233	8
31-40	406	16	768	26	860	28
41-50	716	28	1,026	34	1,138	37
51-60	700	28	905	30	788	25
61-70	359	14	87	3	64	2
71-80	126	5	9	..	2	..
81-90	52	2	3	..	..	..
91 and over	36	2	1	..	..	..
Totals	2,519	100	3,003	100	3,085	100

It is admitted on all sides that the continuance of a policy of reduction in the size of classes is essential if New Zealand is to keep abreast of other countries in educational progress. In England the Board of Education has accepted the elimination of large classes as one of the cardinal objects of national policy in education. That this policy is being actively pursued will be apparent from the following statement of the position as to sizes of classes in 1927-28 in the public elementary schools in England and Wales :—

Number of Children.			Number of Classes.	Per Cent.
Under 31	..	..	43,470	29
31-40	..	..	44,686	30
41-50	..	..	45,602	30
51-60	..	..	16,517	11
Over 60	..	..	169	..
			150,444	100

In comparing these figures with the figures shown above for New Zealand it must be remembered that the former are in respect to all schools, whereas the latter are only for schools of Grade IV and upwards.

In New Zealand, as in England, progress in reducing the size of classes has been materially hampered by the difficulty of providing adequate accommodation for the augmented staff. School buildings are, however, being enlarged and remodelled as rapidly as funds permit.

PUPILS LEAVING PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

In 1928, 23,742 pupils (12,313 boys and 11,429 girls) left public primary schools ; of these 18,508, or 78 per cent., had passed Standard VI, and 5,234, or 22 per cent., had not passed that standard. Amongst the 5,234 children who left without passing Standard VI were 745 children who had not attained the age of fourteen years. It is thought, however, that the greater portion of these will be children who, though not fourteen years of age when the schools closed in December, 1928, attained that age before the 1929 school year commenced. A number left the Dominion, and others transferred either to private schools or to lower departments of secondary schools. The few who are not thus accounted for will doubtless have been dealt with by the Education Boards for irregular attendance.

DESTINATION OF PUPILS LEAVING PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The Department now obtains from public schools, through the Education Boards, returns as to the destination of pupils leaving school each year. A summary of the returns in respect of the pupils who left last year is given in the following table. From this table it will be seen that 51 per cent. of the boys and girls who left last year proceeded to post-primary schools, 20 per cent. of the boys engaged in farming pursuits, and 7 per cent. of the boys entered various trades.

PROBABLE DESTINATION OF PUPILS LEAVING PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS DURING, OR AT END OF, YEAR 1928.

Destination.	Had passed Standard VI.		Had not passed Standard VI.		Totals.			
					Boys.		Girls.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.
Post primary	6,046	5,587	255	212	6,301	51	5,799	51
Commercial occupations—								
(a) Clerical (including typing) ..	72	71	14	12	86	1	83	1
(b) Shop and warehouse assistants	348	208	139	102	487	4	310	3
Trades—								
(a) Engineering	141	1	49	..	190	2	1	*
(b) Building	104	..	64	..	168	1	..	..
(c) Other	282	57	177	44	459	4	101	1
Agricultural and pastoral ..	1,357	98	1,108	87	2,465	20	185	1
Other occupations	447	314	356	330	803	6	644	6
Home	571	2,516	362	1,475	933	8	3,991	34
Not known	185	103	236	212	421	3	315	3
Totals	9,553	8,955	2,760	2,474	12,313	100	11,429	100

* No significant percentage.

REGISTERED PRIVATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The following table summarizes the returns furnished by registered private primary schools with respect to the year 1928 :—

					Undenominational Schools.	Catholic Church Schools.	Other Church Schools.	Total.
Number of schools	..	..	..	..	39	200	63	302
Roll—Boys	..	..	..	..	827	10,071	1,330	12,228
Girls	..	..	..	..	795	11,326	2,247	14,368
Total	..	..	..	..	1,622	21,397	3,577	26,596
Average attendance	..	..	..	..	1,408·7	19,111·6	3,190·5	23,710·8
Teachers—Men	..	..	..	..	32	51	58	141
Women	..	..	..	..	107	652	191	950
Total	..	..	..	..	139	703	249	1,091

The number of schools at the end of the previous year was 305, and the total enrolment 27,358.

CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS.

The Government has continued to extend the system of consolidation of country schools, and is more and more convinced of the advantages thus provided for the children of farming districts. In a number of additional cases in which local opinion has been favourable, the extra expenditure inconsiderable, and the conditions suitable, small schools have been replaced by larger schools in central positions. Conveyance of the children by motor-vehicle to the central schools has generally been arranged by contract, but in some cases the buses used are owned by the Government and the service is maintained by the Education Board with the help of a staff mechanic and teacher-drivers. In other cases the railways are used as the means of conveyance to consolidated schools.

The children, instead of being taught in isolation in very small schools, have been able to receive the advantages of instruction in larger and better-equipped schools, and very often by better-qualified teachers than they had under former conditions.

The most complete consolidations carried out recently have been that on the Ruawai Plains, North Auckland, and that of Hawarden, North Canterbury. In the former case five small schools have been closed and in their place a large up-to-date school with a secondary department and a manual-training centre attached has been established. At Hawarden the consolidation involved the closing of five small schools and the substitution of the present large one, in connection with which a district high school is likely to be established shortly. The children are brought to school from the surrounding districts in four buses, in the daily run of which a total mileage of 117 is covered.

The fears sometimes expressed that the land-values in a district will decline if the small local school is removed and conveyance to a larger school instituted are not found to be realized, though such fears are still the basis of opposition to consolidation. It is pleasing to find that wherever consolidation has been carried out the residents appreciate the improved educational facilities that it affords for their children.

CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL.

The Correspondence School continues to function efficiently. The number of pupils on the roll at the end of December, 1928, was 720, an increase of 100 on the figures of the previous year. Of the pupils on the roll, 301 were in the primer class, the remainder (419), were in standard classes. The school is under regular inspection by an officer of the Department, who reported very favourably on the work. Twenty pupils of Standard VI were presented for the Proficiency Examination, all gaining proficiency certificates.

The work of the school is under the management of a head teacher, ten assistant teachers, and five clerical assistants. A high standard of work is maintained, and pupils from this school can successfully compete with others in secondary schools. A fine spirit of co-operation has been engendered, pupils, parents, and teachers working harmoniously to a common end. Towards the end of the year a school paper, *The Postman*, was compiled by the teachers from material supplied by the scholars. Many ex-pupils keep in touch with their teachers, who are thus enabled to offer timely advice or assistance, where needed.

During the year the establishment of a secondary department was authorized, and by the end of the year preliminary arrangements had been made to commence operations in 1929. The courses offered include English, Arithmetic, agriculture, mathematics, book-keeping, geography, and history. Three courses are available—a general course with an agricultural trend, a course leading to Public Service Entrance, and another to Matriculation.

The addition of sewing to the curriculum of the primary department was also authorized, and arrangements made for a commencement in 1929.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

This important work continues to make highly satisfactory progress. The work throws itself into two main sections—the improvement of the physically fit, and the removal of the curable defects of the physically defective. An important field is almost untouched by the work done in the schools—that of the class of children who, through hereditary defects, or accidents, disease, or malnutrition in infancy, have already in them physical defects which, becoming more pronounced as the child advances in years, tend to impair the efficiency and happiness of the individual in middle life and old age. The solution of the problem is recognized as one of great importance, as evidenced by the activities of the many societies interested in the well-being of young children.

On request from this Department, the Division of School Hygiene made an investigation into the physical condition of the children in the Wellington District. The following excerpts from this report are taken as being of special interest:—

“The figures show that certain deformities tend to increase steadily during the child's progress through the school (*i.e.*, from 5 to 15 years). The two types of defect in which this increase is most definite are the forward inclination of the head and deformities of the feet.”

“Chest deformities did not seem to vary to such a degree in the different age groups—if anything, they tend to decrease with age. I found less deformity of the chest than I expected; certainly definite cases were very infrequent.”

“The defect knock-knees is very common in all ages. The 5–6-year group showed 79 per cent. incidence. It tends to decrease, or at any rate to appear less evident, in the 13–15 years group. Nevertheless, it is so prevalent at all ages that it appears probable that the usual standing position for the average New Zealand child is with the feet parallel and a few inches apart.”

“When children are classified into four groups according to posture it is to be noted that 41 per cent. of the whole show faulty posture to a degree requiring remedial measures. The 7–8-year-old group once more includes greatest percentage showing faulty posture.”

“New Zealand appears to be producing a type of individual with characteristics more closely resembling those of the ‘thin’ type of the earlier classification—a slender, loose-limbed, perhaps rather ungainly-looking child—compared to the stocky type, in which stability is apparently somewhat sacrificed to mobility.”

“Defective posture and imperfect body-balance may assist in the production of foot-deformities, but the frequency with which normal feet are discovered in the habitual ‘barefoot’ child suggests that the modern footwear is still the prime factor.”

The results of the investigations will be used to give direction to the work, and will doubtless give food for thought to the parents of young children in this country.

Wherever desirable, physically defective children are grouped in classes and receive corrective exercises or such other treatment as may be indicated by the School Medical Officer.

Swimming and life-saving are receiving increased attention, and, wherever possible, regular instruction is being given. An increasing number of training-college students qualify as instructors.

Refresher courses for the instruction of teachers were held in the principal centres, and were well attended.

Twelve selected training-college students were trained as specialists in physical education at the Dunedin Training College under Dr. Renfrew White, the course including instruction in anatomy, physiology, corrective work, folk and country dancing, and swimming and life-saving.

Fourteen physical instructors are employed as itinerant teachers, and have carried out their work with enthusiasm.

MANUAL INSTRUCTION.

Staffing.—On the 30th June, 1928, there was in the employ of the various Education Boards a total of 120 full-time specialist teachers engaged in giving instruction to senior pupils in woodwork, metalwork, and domestic subjects, besides twenty-three specialist instructors in elementary agriculture. These teachers were classified as under. Class VII is the highest, and in Division I are placed those teachers whose classification is based on academic or professional qualifications equivalent to at least a University diploma involving three years' preparation of University standard.

FULL-TIME CLASSIFIED TEACHERS IN MANUAL-TRAINING CLASSES AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1928.

Class.	Division I.		Division II.		Totals.
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	
VII	..	..	..	..	..
VI	1	..	4	6	11
V	8	..	17	8	33
IV	4	1	15	9	29
III	1	4	10	7	22
II	2	4	10	4	20
I	1	14	9	4	28
Totals, 1928	17	23	65	38	143
Totals, 1927	16	20	65	40	141

In this table are included nine teachers (four men and five women) on staffs of junior high schools and one supervisor of needlework in primary classes.

The average rates of salary on the 30th June, 1928, were as follows: Men, £360; woman, £224; both, £302.

The following are some particulars of the number of schools and the number of pupils receiving instruction in manual training during 1928:—

Elementary agriculture: Number of public primary schools, 1,939; number of pupils, 45,313.

Elementary science: Number of public primary schools, 40; number of pupils, 3,309.

Woodwork: Total number of pupils attending special centres was 21,643, of which 17,015 attended from public primary schools and 1,453 from private schools, the remainder attending from junior high schools, secondary schools, or secondary departments of district high schools.

Metalwork: Total number of pupils attending special centres was 1,173, of which 82 attended from public primary schools and 31 from private schools, the remainder attending from junior high schools, secondary schools, or secondary departments of district high schools.

Domestic subjects: Total number of pupils attending special centres was 21,449, of which 15,860 attended from public primary schools and 2,008 from private schools, the remainder attending from junior high schools, secondary schools, or secondary departments of district high schools.

Financial.—The total amount due by the Department to the Education Boards for the salaries and incidental expenses for the year 1928 was approximately £69,874, made up as follows:—

Salaries—						£	£
Full-time assistants	..	..	..	..	..	42,984	
Full-time student teachers	..	..	..	..	..	164	
Overtime	..	..	..	..	..	74	
Capitation for part-time teachers (including commercial instructors in district high schools)	..	..	..	..	..	1,283	
							44,505
Incidental allowances	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,189
Capitation grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,180
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	£69,874

In addition, the Department provided handwork materials for use in 1928 costing some £9,065, and also refunded to Education Boards the actual receiving and distributing charges, amounting approximately to £1,346, involving a total expenditure of £10,411.

The above figures exclude salaries and incidental allowances payable in respect of manual-training classes conducted by Technical School Boards.

STAFFS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The number of adult teachers employed in the primary departments of public schools at the end of 1928 was 6,341 (men, 2,243 ; women, 4,098), an increase of 111 over the previous year. Included in the foregoing figures for adult teachers are 133 probationary assistants who were employed in public schools completing their training as teachers. The number of such assistants for the previous year was 108. In addition to adult teachers there were employed in public schools at the end of 1928, 572 probationers (males, 142 ; females, 430), compared with 567 at the end of the previous year. The following table shows the number of teachers in the schools of the various grades :—

NUMBER OF ADULT TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN PRIMARY DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
DECEMBER, 1928.

Grade of School.			Sole Teachers.		Head Teachers.		Assistant Teachers.		Total Adult Teachers.			
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	
Grade	0	(1-8)	..	34	190	..	..	..	..	34	190	224
„	I	(9-20)	..	314	450	1	1	..	5	315	456	771
„	II	(21-35)	..	209	248	23	19	..	43	232	310	542
„	IIIA	(36-50)	..	6	11	184	88	4	271	194	370	564
„	IIIB	(51-80)	..	..	..	211	39	4	273	215	312	527
„	IIIC	(81-120)	..	..	..	117	7	7	246	124	253	377
„	IV	(121-240)	..	..	..	126	1	96	412	222	413	635
„	V	(241-360)	..	..	..	72	1	122	369	194	370	564
„	VI	(361-480)	..	..	..	58	..	167	404	225	404	629
„	VII	(over 480)	..	..	..	100	..	388	1,020	488	1,020	1,508
All grades			..	563	899	892	156	788	3,043	2,343	4,098	6,341

Ratio of Men to Women Teachers.—The following table indicates the number of women for each 100 men teachers :—

—	1915.	1918.	1922.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Adult teachers—						
All schools	193	253	197	194	187	183
Schools with roll 1-20	323	523	299	212	202	185
Schools with roll over 20	176	227	182	191	185	182
Pupil-teachers	344	425	223	*	*	*
Probationers	647	688	349	248	236	303
Training-college students	387	488	256	191	213	227

* The position of "pupil-teacher" has now been abolished.

The number of adult women teachers to each 100 adult men teachers in all schools has steadily declined since the years of the Great War, the number in 1928 being ten less than in 1915, and seventy less than in 1918. The diminution in the proportion of adult women teachers employed is particularly marked in the schools with less than twenty-one pupils in average attendance, the number of adult women teachers employed in such schools to every 100 adult men teachers so employed having shrunk from 323 in 1915 to 185 in 1928. This movement is attributable to the comparatively higher salaries paid in sole-teacher schools in recent years, thus inducing male teachers to undertake service in these schools.

In the previous section, entitled “Elimination of Large Classes,” reference was made to steps that had been taken to staff the primary schools more liberally. The following figures give further evidence of what has been done in this direction during the last few years :—

Year.						Average Attendance.	Number of Adult Teachers.	Number of Pupils per Adult Teacher.
1925	..	..	..	..	..	194,741	6,002	32·4
1926	..	..	..	..	..	192,588	6,183	31·1
1927	..	..	..	..	..	192,284	6,230	30·8
1928	..	..	..	..	..	195,411	6,341	30·8

TEACHERS’ SALARIES.

The total amount of all salaries and allowances for the year ending on the 31st March, 1929, was £1,781,389, or £17,541 more than in the previous year. These figures do not include the equivalent of house allowance where residences are provided, estimated at £51,204, nor the additional amounts paid to head teachers for the supervision of secondary departments of district high schools. The total cost of salaries and allowances (including the sum saved in house allowances) works out at £8 7s. 6d. per head of the total roll number, the corresponding amount in 1927 was £8 5s. 1d.

The average salaries of adult teachers (including house allowances and value of residences) in 1914 and for the last five years are shown in the following table :—

AVERAGE SALARIES OF PRIMARY-SCHOOL TEACHERS.

	1914.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
(1) Teachers in all schools—						
(a) Men and women	163	276	280	280	279	280
(b) Men	224	358	364	359	356	354
(c) Women	128	236	238	239	238	240
(2) Teachers in schools with average attendance over eight—						
(a) Men and women	..	283	286	285	286	287
(b) Men	..	361	366	361	359	358
(c) Women	..	242	244	244	246	247
(3) Teachers in schools with average attendance over twenty—						
(a) Men and women	..	291	292	295	290	291
(b) Men	..	380	384	384	375	370
(c) Women	..	245	244	248	245	246
(4) Head teachers—						
(a) Men	..	436	442	443	445	444
(b) Women	..	365	359	380	375	374
(5) All sole teachers—						
(a) Men	..	251	264	273	278	276
(b) Women	..	226	240	244	239	241
(6) Assistants—						
(a) Men	..	326	329	318	310	309
(b) Women	..	230	231	230	231	233

The next table groups certificated teachers according to their salaries. This table shows that 35 per cent. of the certificated male teachers receive salaries over £400 per annum and 57 per cent. receive salaries over £350. Of the certificated women teachers 40 per cent. receive salaries in excess of £250.

Salaries (including Allowances and Value of Residences).	Certificated Male Teachers.		Certificated Female Teachers.	
	Sole and Head Teachers.	Assistants.	Sole and Head Teachers.	Assistants.
Not exceeding £180	14	18	55	472
£181 to £250	100	195	108	1,630
£251 „ £300	248	87	369	338
£301 „ £350	162	100	134	537
£351 „ £400	250	209	175	134
Over £400	624	132	27	12
Totals	1,398	741	868	2,923

APPLICANTS FOR PROBATIONERSHIPS.

In 1928 the number of qualified applicants for entrance to the teaching service as probationers far exceeded the number of probationerships. The Education Boards were therefore again able to select for appointment young people with high academic attainments. Sixty per cent. of those appointed as probationers in 1928 had higher leaving certificates or a full pass in the Teachers' Class D Examination, and 39 per cent. had either passed the Matriculation Examination, secured a partial pass in the Class D Examination, or held lower leaving certificates. There were 953 applications received in 1928 from young persons desirous of receiving appointment as probationers. Seven hundred and fifty-two of these applicants had the minimum educational qualification necessary for appointment and passed the required medical examination. It was possible, however, to find positions for only 582 of the applicants thus qualified.

SUPPLY OF TEACHERS.

During the past two or three years the supply of teachers has exceeded the Dominion's requirements. This position has arisen in consequence of the admissions to the teachers' training colleges being increased for the dual purpose of replacing untrained and uncertificated teachers by trained certificated teachers, and of supplementing school staffs in order that the number of large classes might be reduced. Unfortunately for the latter project, sufficient public funds have not been available to increase the school accommodation to the extent required for the breaking-up of large classes. Notwithstanding this, however, considerable progress has been made by the appointment of a large number of additional assistants. The number of uncertificated teachers has also been very substantially reduced. When, however, these teachers became aware of the intention to supersede them they made every effort to increase their status and as a consequence were able to retain their positions. For these reasons the supply of teachers has somewhat exceeded the demand. In 1925, however, the Department took charge of the supply of teachers by controlling the number of entrants to the training colleges. The subjoined tables indicate the nature of the calculations that were made. It is too early yet for the full effect of the restriction to be felt, since the teachers admitted to the service in any particular year do not become available for permanent staff needs until the fifth year thereafter, the period intervening being filled by one year's probationary service, two years at training college, and one final probationary year. It will thus be seen that the accuracy of the estimate made in 1925 cannot be checked until the year 1930. It is confidently anticipated that the restriction now placed by the Department on the number of probationer entrants appointed by the Education Boards, together with the gradual strengthening of school staffs, will have the effect in the near future of entirely doing away with unemployment among teachers, provided, of course, young teachers will go wherever their services are required. This has not always been the case in the past, and Boards have experienced considerable difficulty in persuading some of the ex-training-college students to accept appointments in remote country districts. In fact, this reluctance to accept country service partly explains why some young teachers remain unemployed.

TABLE I.—PLAN MADE IN 1925.

Year.	Pupil-teachers or Probationers.		Training College.		Student Assistants.	Permanent Staff.
	First Year.	Second Year.	First Year.	Second Year.		
1925	*357	*654	*625	*620	*33	*640
1926	400	300	†700	500	125	†653
1927	700	..	700	500	200	†625
1928	700	..	700	500	300	600

* Numbers as at present.

† Any loss through pupil-teachers and probationers not qualifying will be made up by the admission of B students. Note also that C and D students, being very few, are not counted.

‡ Any number in excess of ordinary staff requirements will be absorbed in reducing the size of classes.

TABLE II.—PLAN MADE IN 1926.

Year.	Probationers.		Training Colleges.			Probationary and Substituted Assistants.	Unemployed.	Immigrants.	Staff Needs: Primary and Secondary.
	First Year.	Second Year.	First Year.	Second Year.	Third Year.				
	(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1926 ..	403	302	706	490	..	468	†150	30	..
1927 ..	400	190	*515	605	40	486	†111	30	620
1928 ..		600	*590	515	50	490	†102	30	630
1929 ..		600	*600	590	50	495	2	30	640
1930 ..		600	*600	600	50	495	..	30	650
1931 ..	..	..	*600	600	50	500	..	30	650

* Division C and D students have not been included nor have voluntary withdrawals been taken into account.

† No really reliable information is available regarding this number, as many not in permanent positions are employed as relieving teachers, others are at University classes, and some refuse to leave their home district. This number will be reduced if the staff requirements turn out to be greater than estimated. The increase of unemployment in 1928 is due to the excessively large number of appointments in 1923-24.

NOTE.—This table is built up on the same plan as Table I. Owing to the present table being much more complicated than Table I referred to, guiding lines have been omitted. If these are inserted the relation of the numbers given can be readily followed.

TABLE III.

Number of teachers in 1928 6,230

Wastage (death, marriage, retirement) = 8 per cent. 543

Average yearly increase in staff = 2 per cent. 136

∴ Total new teachers needed in 1933 679

Less immigrant teachers (say 30) and Division C teachers (say 29) .. 59

∴ Number of Division A and B students needed 620

Hence number of probationers needed for 1929 training for 1933 should be, say 600

To provide for the absorption of the unemployed only 556 probationers were appointed.

TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

The period of training for a young person desiring recognition by the Department as a trained teacher is now four years, consisting in general of one year as a probationer in a public school, two years as a training-college student, and one year as a probationary assistant in a public school. In the case of a few students desirous of qualifying as specialist teachers the training-college course is extended for a third year, and the requirement as to service as a probationary assistant is in these cases dispensed with.

As stated at an earlier stage in this report, there were in 1928, 572 probationers and 133 probationary assistants employed in public schools. The table which follows will show that in the same year there were 1,114 young persons in attendance at the four training colleges. There were thus in 1928 1,819 young persons receiving training in Government institutions for the teaching profession.

The following table shows the number of students in training in the four training colleges during 1928. The figures for the previous year are also given for the purposes of comparison:—

College.				1927.			1928.		
				Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Auckland	..	..	..	138	285	423	118	263	381
Wellington	..	..	..	77	187	264	57	172	229
Christchurch	..	..	..	83	199	282	82	174	256
Dunedin	..	..	..	86	145	231	84	164	248
Totals	..	..	..	384	816	1,200	341	773	1,114

Students may be admitted to the training colleges under one or other of the following divisions: Division A, students who, having obtained the necessary educational qualifications, have completed a course of training as probationers, or have completed a course of training at a recognized kindergarten school, or have completed a full-time course as student teachers in a technical school; Division B, other students who, being over seventeen years of age, have obtained higher leaving certificates or partial passes in the Class D Examination or have obtained equivalent or higher qualifications; Division C, University graduates admitted for one year; Division D, teachers entering on short-period studentships. The numbers of students under the several divisions in 1928 were: Division A, 1,079; Division B, 11; Division C, 24; and Division D, nil: total, 1,114. The numbers for the previous year were: Division A, 1,085; Division B, 76; Division C, 18; and Division D, 21: total, 1,200.

Of the 1,114 students in attendance at training colleges in 1928, 576 were in their first year, 503 in the second, and 35 in the third year. Each of the 35 third-year students was aiming to qualify as a specialist teacher in some particular subject. Eight were qualifying as teachers of science; 3, mathematics; 4, drawing and handwork; 5, mathematics and science both; 3, music; and 12, physical training: total, 35.

The number of students who left training colleges in 1928 was 512, and their examination status was as follows: Class A certificate, nil; Class B certificate, 108; Class C certificate, 325; Class D with partial success towards Class C, 68; Class D, 2; credited with some subjects towards a teacher's certificate, 9; no examination, nil.

GRADING OF TEACHERS.

The total number of teachers graded as at the 31st December, 1928, was 7,203, including 36 New Zealand teachers employed in Islands Schools (Fiji, Western Samoa, and Cook Islands). The total for the previous year was 7,040. Appeals against grading were lodged by 150 teachers, as compared with 132 for the previous year. Of the latter number, 54 appeals were withdrawn, 59 were disallowed, and 19 were upheld.

STATUS OF TEACHERS IN REGARD TO CERTIFICATES.

The table below gives a summary of the position with regard to the number of primary-school teachers holding teachers' certificates in the last three years:—

PRIMARY TEACHERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

	1926.		1927.		1928.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
I. Certificated teachers	5,559	90	5,730	92	5,916	93
II. Uncertificated teachers—						
(1) Holding licenses	61	1	35	1	14	*
(2) Unlicensed	563	9	465	7	411	6
Total uncertificated	624	10	500	8	425	7
Totals of I and II	6,183	100	6,230	100	6,341	100

* No significant percentage.

The numbers of teachers holding certificates of the various classes in 1927 and 1928 were as follows:—

Class of Certificate.				1927.			1928.		
				M.	F.	Total.	M	F.	Total.
A	..	..	..	48	10	58	50	9	59
B	..	..	..	494	292	786	570	339	909
C	..	..	..	1,090	2,181	3,271	1,127	2,311	3,438
D	..	..	..	401	1,127	1,528	371	1,063	1,434
E	..	..	..	11	76	87	10	66	76
Total	..	..	..	2,044	3,686	5,730	2,128	3,788	5,916

The past few years have witnessed an undoubted improvement in the professional status of adult teachers employed in public schools. The number of teachers employed who are both uncertificated and untrained is now almost a negligible quantity. Last year, as the above figures show, there were 425 uncertificated teachers employed in public schools. It must be remembered, however, that many of these have received professional training at the colleges and require to pass in only one or two subjects or to serve their term as probationary assistants in order to complete the requirements of a teacher's certificate. There are now very few untrained teachers in the Service, and it is quite impossible now for any one to enter the profession except through the avenue of the training college or the University.

The following figures indicate the very marked decrease in recent years in the numbers of uncertificated teachers employed in public primary schools :—

Year.						Uncertificated Teachers.	
						Number.	As Percentage of Adult Teachers.
1920	..	..	..	..	..	1,472	28
1921	..	..	..	..	..	1,336	25
1922	..	..	..	..	..	1,234	22
1923	..	..	..	..	..	1,100	19
1924	..	..	..	..	..	931	16
1925	..	..	..	..	..	701	12
1926	..	..	..	..	..	624	10
1927	..	..	..	..	..	500	8
1928	..	..	..	..	..	425	7

That this is a satisfactory position is evidenced by the fact that 21 per cent. of the adult teachers employed in public elementary schools in England and Wales in 1927–28 were uncertificated.

In addition to the improvement noted above in regard to the number of uncertificated teachers employed, there has been a decided improvement in the professional and academic status of those teachers who are certificated. In 1923 only 60 per cent. of the adult teachers in public schools held certificates above Class D, whereas in 1928 the corresponding percentage was 75. The following figures show the percentage of teachers holding certificates of the various classes in the years 1923 and 1928 :—

Certificate.						Percentage, 1923.	Percentage, 1928.
A	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
B	..	..	..	..	..	9	16
C	..	..	..	..	..	50	58
D	..	..	..	..	..	36	24
E	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
						100	100

A further interesting feature in regard to teachers certificates is the growth in the percentage of trained teachers certificates that are issued each year. In 1923, of 787 certificates issued during the year, 509, or 65 per cent. were trained teachers certificates, while in 1928, of 698 certificates issued, 587, or 84 per cent. were trained teachers certificates.

NATIVE SCHOOLS.

At the end of 1928 there were 134 Native village schools under the direct control of the Department for the primary education of Maori children in districts principally settled by Natives. In addition there were eleven primary and twelve secondary (boarding) schools controlled by various religious organizations. Maoris are also admitted to the ordinary public schools—and in fact the number attending these schools is greater than the number in attendance at Native schools.

The following table shows the number of schools with the enrolment at the end of 1927 and at the end of 1928 :—

	Schools, 1928.	Roll, 1927.	Roll, 1928.
Native village schools	134	6,620	6,671
Mission schools (primary)	11	470	550
Public schools with Native children enrolled	746	7,247	7,593
Totals	891	14,337	14,814

These figures include a number of European children (837 in 1928) who attend Native village schools, and if these be deducted the enrolment of Native children in primary schools at the end of last year becomes 13,977, compared with 13,505 at the close of the previous year.

The average yearly attendance at Native village schools was maintained at a creditably high percentage (88.1) of the average weekly enrolment.

Boarding-schools for the secondary education of Maoris have been established by religious bodies, and the Government provides a number of scholarships tenable at these schools, which are inspected by the Department's officers. There were twelve schools at the end of last year, with an enrolment of 533 pupils, of whom 150 held Government scholarships. In addition, five Maoris held scholarships at Victoria University College, Otago University, and Canterbury College, taking courses in arts, theology, medicine, and forestry, and five Maoris held agricultural scholarships at Te Aute College.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS.

The number of post-primary schools (sometimes called junior high schools) in operation during the year was the same as in the previous year—namely, eight. No new junior high schools were opened during the year. A new secondary school—Rongotai Boys' College—was, however, opened at Wellington, and, as the available accommodation at the school was in excess of that required for the time being for secondary pupils, it was decided to admit meantime boys of Standard VI from neighbouring schools. Owing to this unusual constitution the junior department of the school, which is designated Form II, is for statistical purposes being treated as a junior high school, and details regarding it are therefore included in the following tables regarding junior high schools.

The total number of children enrolled at junior high schools (including Rongotai Boys' College) at the end of 1928 was 2,280, as against 2,290 in the previous year. Information regarding the attendance and classification of pupils in attendance at junior high schools in 1928 is shown in the following tables:—

ROLL NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF PUPILS IN ATTENDANCE AT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS.

Junior High School.	Number on Roll at beginning of 1928.	Number admitted during 1928.	Number on Roll at 31st December, 1928.	Average attendance, 1928.	Classification of Pupils on Roll as at 30th June, 1928.								Total.
					Form I.		Form II.		Form III.		All Forms.		
					Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	
(a) Whangarei ..	291	178	290	276	76	57	87	70	*	*	163	127	290
(c) Kowhai ..	888	409	805	813	183	155	202	170	74	89	459	414	873
(c) Northcote ..	300	151	265	268.9	72	57	57	61	18	26	147	144	291
(b) Matamata ..	164	100	147	143.9	45	34	42	37	†	†	87	71	158
(a) Rotorua ..	132	82	134	121.2	45	31	33	27	*	*	78	58	136
(d) Rongotai ..	81	82	78	75	..	..	80	..	..	..	80	..	80
(a) Marlborough	246	124	242	224.7	58	56	72	61	*	*	130	117	247
(a) Waitaki Boys'	181	109	179	169.6	95	..	86	..	*	*	181	..	181
(a) Waitaki Girls'	132	77	140	129.1	..	72	..	67	*	*	..	139	139
Totals, 1928	2,415	1,312	2,280	2,221.4	574	462	659	493	92	115	1,325	1,070	2,395
Totals, 1927	1,057	1,546	2,290	2,216	635	519	576	532	63	75	1,274	1,126	2,400
Difference ..	1,358	—234	—10	5.4	—61	—57	83	—39	29	40	51	—56	—5

(a) These schools are senior high schools to which junior departments consisting of Standard V and Standard VI pupils have been attached. They are sometimes called junior-senior high schools.

(b) A district high school including a primary school department up to Standard IV, a junior high school or junior secondary department consisting of the former Standard V and Standard VI pupils, and a senior high school or senior secondary department.

(c) These schools are separate junior high schools including the former Standard V and Standard VI pupils and also a small Form III or the lowest form of the senior high school.

(d) A senior secondary school to which boys of Standard VI are admitted.

* Number of Form III pupils included in the statistics for secondary schools.

† Number of Form III pupils included in the statistics for district high schools.

AGES OF PUPILS IN ATTENDANCE AT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AT 30TH JUNE, 1928.

Junior High School.	Under 11 Years.		11 Years and under 12.		12 Years and under 13.		13 Years and under 14.		14 Years and under 15.		15 Years and over.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Whangarei ..	1	6	27	27	48	30	50	33	25	21	12	10
Kowhai ..	15	8	74	75	124	131	138	119	81	60	27	21
Northcote ..	8	5	32	24	30	50	48	39	22	21	7	5
Matamata ..	4	3	7	9	34	21	18	23	20	14	4	1
Rotorua ..	..	3	16	10	22	17	23	24	12	3	5	1
Rongotai ..	..	..	3	..	26	..	34	..	14	..	3	..
Marlborough ..	2	4	24	26	41	38	39	28	18	18	6	3
Waitaki Boys' ..	6	..	47	..	50	..	46	..	23	..	9	..
Waitaki Girls' ..	..	5	..	27	..	55	..	38	..	8	..	6
Totals ..	36	34	230	198	375	342	396	304	215	145	73	47

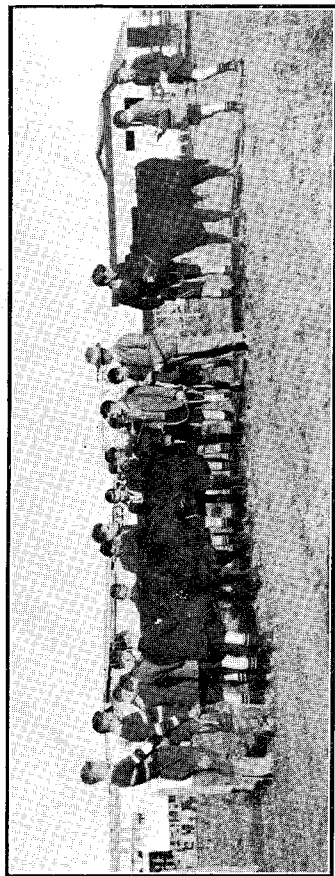
AGES AND CLASSIFICATION OF PUPILS IN ATTENDANCE AT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AT 30TH JUNE, 1928.

Age.	Form I.		Form II.		Form III.		Total.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Under 11 years ..	33	34	3	..	..	..	36	34
11 years and under 12 ..	186	162	43	35	1	1	230	198
12 „ 13 ..	184	171	183	156	8	15	375	342
13 „ 14 ..	116	75	244	185	36	44	396	304
14 „ 15 ..	43	20	137	84	35	41	215	145
15 years and over ..	12	..	49	33	12	14	73	47
Totals ..	574	462	659	493	92	115	1,325	1,070

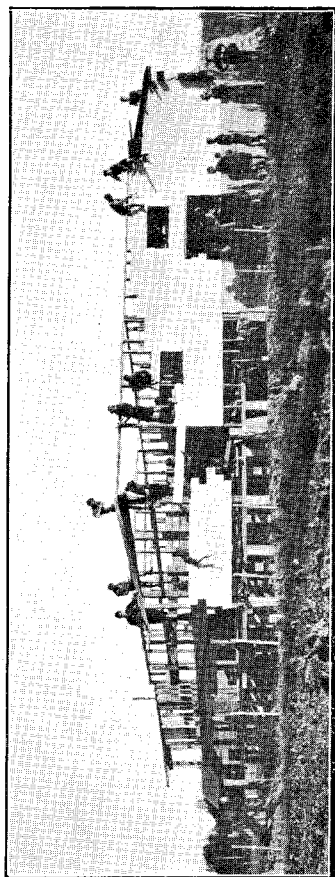
As is the case with primary schools and secondary schools, the Department receives each year from junior high schools returns showing the probable destination of pupils leaving these schools each year. A tabulation of the latest returns shows the following to be the probable destination of pupils leaving junior high schools in 1928 :—

DESTINATION OF PUPILS LEAVING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS DURING, OR AT END OF, 1928.

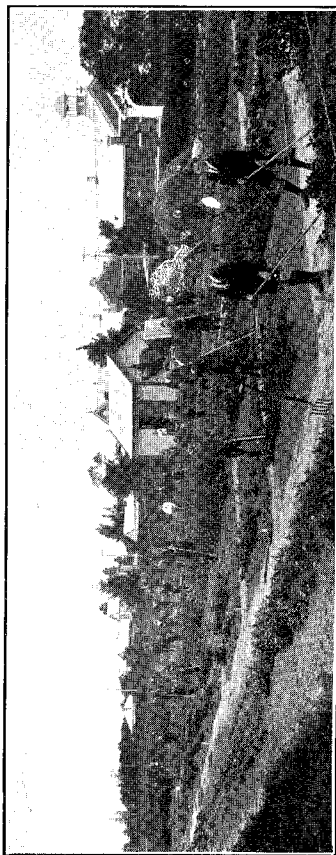
Occupation.	Boys.					Girls.				
	First Year.	Second Year.	Third Year.	Total.	Percentage.	First Year.	Second Year.	Third Year.	Total.	Percentage.
Continued full-time education	45	388	32	465	63	24	299	39	362	57
Commercial (clerical, typing, shop, and warehouse)	3	31	7	41	5	..	25	33	58	9
Trades ..	8	26	8	42	6	..	2	..	2	..
Agricultural or pastoral	4	31	..	35	5	..	..	..	..	..
Home ..	6	18	4	28	4	14	102	17	133	21
Miscellaneous ..	2	22	3	27	4	1	12	11	24	4
Not known ..	35	44	20	99	13	23	35	3	61	9
Totals ..	103	560	74	737	100	62	475	103	640	100



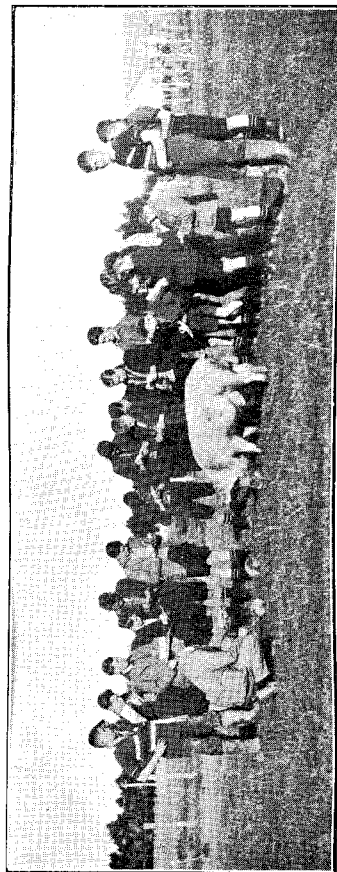
INSTRUCTION IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (CATTLE)—FEILDING TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL.



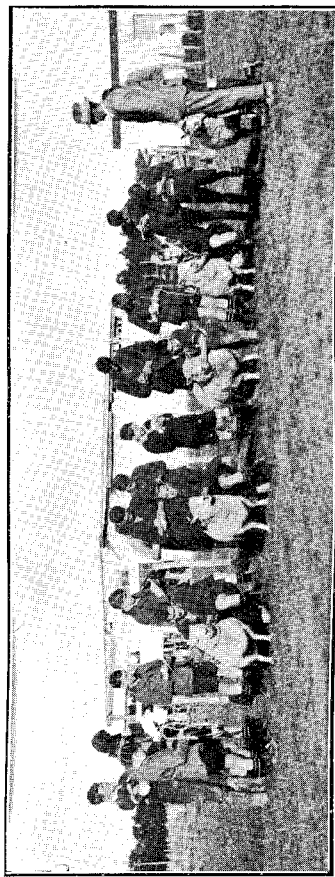
PUPILS ERECTING BUILDING FOR ANIMAL HUSBANDRY—FEILDING TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL.



BOYS' GARDEN PLOTS—RANGIOIRA HIGH SCHOOL.

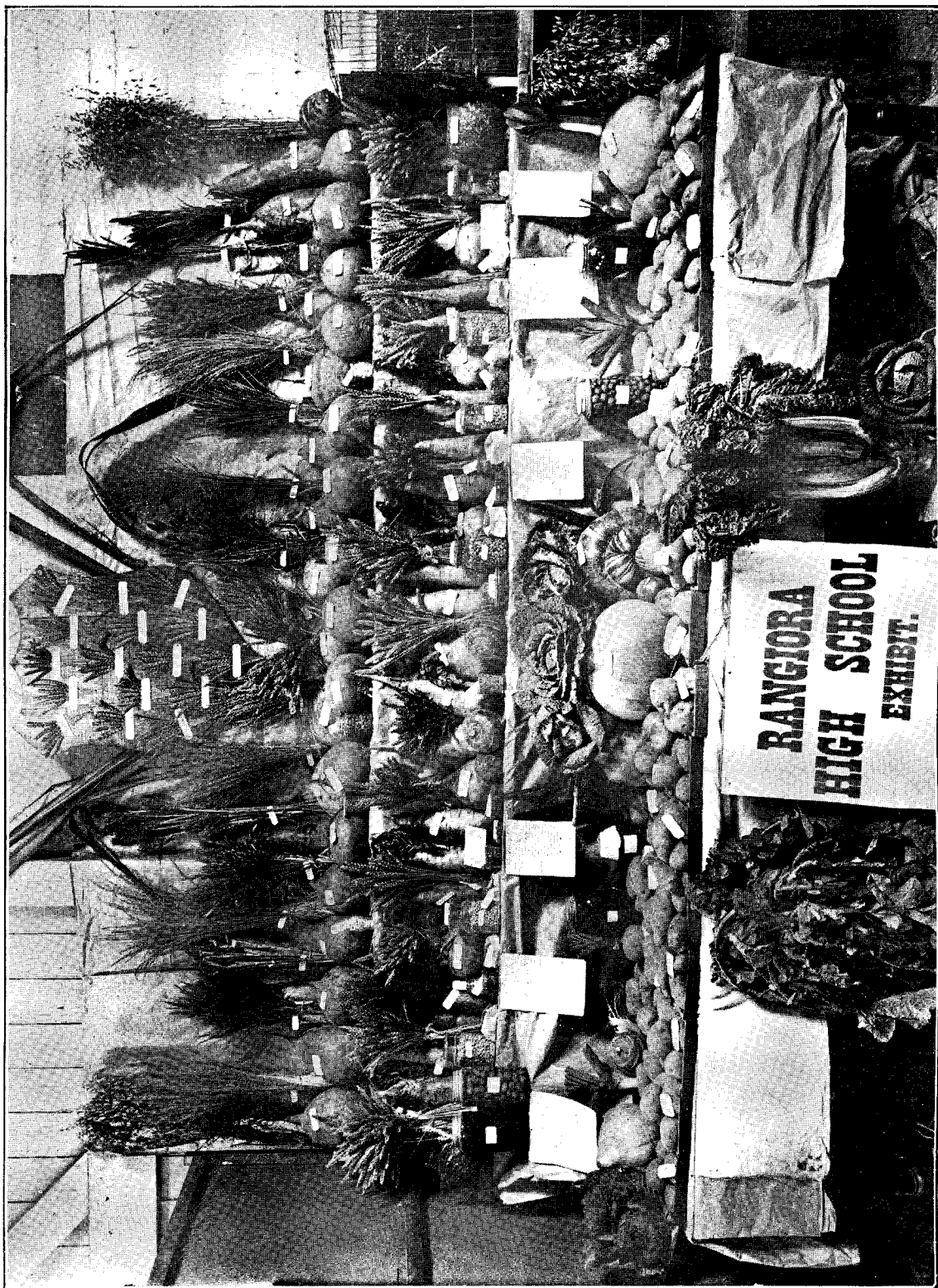


INSTRUCTION IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (PIGS)—FEILDING TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL.



INSTRUCTION IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (SHEEP)—FEILDING TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL.

INSTRUCTION IN PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE AT POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS.



AN EXHIBIT OF SCHOOL FARM PRODUCE.

INSTRUCTION IN PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE AT POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Comparison of the past three years' figures regarding the destination of boys leaving junior high schools shows an increasing tendency on the part of these pupils to continue their full-time education at other schools on leaving the junior high schools. The comparison shows also a heavy decline in the percentage of boys proceeding to commercial occupations or trades. These two movements can with safety be attributed to the depressed trade conditions in the past three years. Boys desirous of leaving school have found considerable difficulty in obtaining employment, and they have accordingly proceeded to other post-primary schools where the period of awaiting employment can be more profitably spent. Owing to the generous system of free post-primary education in operation, this course can be followed with little additional expense to the parents. The percentages of all pupils leaving junior high schools in the past three years and proceeding to the various occupations is shown in the following table:—

Occupation.	Boys.			Girls.		
	1926.	1927.	1928.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Continued full-time education	55	56	63	54	58	57
Commercial (clerical, typing, shop, and warehouse)	10	9	5	4	7	9
Trades	17	12	6	3	3	..
Agricultural and pastoral ..	6	8	5	..	..	..
Home	4	8	4	31	25	21
Miscellaneous	1	2	4	1	4	4
Not known	7	5	13	7	3	9
	100	100	100	100	100	100

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

In 1928 there were in operation forty-three secondary schools at which Government free places were held and for which the teachers' salaries, &c., were provided by the Government. Thirteen of the schools were for boys only, fifteen were for girls only, and fifteen were for both boys and girls. In addition two boys' schools, the Wanganui Collegiate School and Christ's College Grammar School, were originally endowed with public property. There were also seventy-nine secondary departments of district high schools, fourteen technical high schools, seven organized technical or art schools offering day courses, twelve Maori secondary schools, and forty-three registered private secondary schools. Further, of the eight junior high schools in operation during the year two schools—namely, Kowhai and Northcote—each provided a three-year course, the last year of which was devoted to secondary instruction. There was thus a total of 202 schools providing secondary education.

The following figures show the roll and attendance at these schools for 1928:—

- (a) Secondary schools (45)—
 - Roll, 1st March 16,532
 - Roll, 31st December (boys, 8,384 ; girls, 6,654) 15,038
- (b) District high schools—secondary departments (79)—
 - Roll, 31st December (boys, 1,889 ; girls, 1,784) 3,673
- (c) Technical high schools and technical day schools (21)—
 - Roll, 31st December (boys, 3,293 ; girls, 2,768) 6,061
- (d) Registered private secondary schools (43)—
 - Roll, 31st December (boys, 1,401 ; girls, 2,029) 3,430
- (e) Secondary schools for Maoris (12)—
 - Roll, 31st December (boys, 307 ; girls, 226) 533
- (f) Junior high schools, third-year pupils only (2)—
 - Roll, 31st December (boys, 92 ; girls, 115) 207

The total number of pupils receiving secondary education at the end of the year was 28,942, an increase of 2,012 over the figure for the previous year.

DESTINATION OF PUPILS ON COMPLETION OF THEIR SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The following table summarizes the returns furnished by Principals of schools respecting the destination of pupils who left high schools, district high schools, technical high schools, and day technical schools during or at the end of the year 1928. The figures are in all cases exclusive of pupils who left one school to enter another full-time post-primary school :—

Occupation.	Secondary Schools.				Technical High and Day Schools.				Secondary Departments of District High Schools.				Totals.			
	Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.
University college ..	142	5	78	4	11	1	7	*	6	1	2	*	159	3	87	2
Teaching or training college ..	90	3	253	11	23	1	34	2	24	3	60	8	137	3	347	8
Clerical—																
Government or local body ..	204	8	17	1	74	4	19	1	60	7	4	1	338	6	40	1
Banks, insurance ..	141	5	4	*	18	1	5	*	16	2	..	*	175	3	9	*
Legal ..	47	2	3	*	5	*	10	1	3	*	2	*	55	1	15	*
Commercial ..	358	13	401	18	157	8	288	18	48	3	61	9	563	10	750	16
Engineering, surveying, and architecture ..	85	3	..	..	169	9	..	*	30	3	1	*	284	5	1	*
Various trades and industries ..	322	12	49	2	429	23	90	6	117	13	10	1	868	16	149	3
Shop and warehouse ..	262	10	169	7	224	12	153	10	103	12	69	10	589	11	391	9
Farming ..	499	18	..	..	341	18	8	*	294	34	1	*	1,134	21	9	*
Home ..	137	5	1,142	50	77	4	730	46	52	6	473	65	266	5	2,345	51
Other occupations ..	45	2	88	4	51	3	43	3	37	4	30	4	133	2	161	4
Not known ..	387	14	72	3	290	16	210	13	78	9	15	2	755	14	297	6
Totals ..	2,719	100	2,276	100	1,869	100	1,597	100	868	100	728	100	5,456	100	4,601	100

* No significant percentage.

In the table below are shown for comparative purposes the percentages of the total number of boys leaving each class of school last year who proceeded to the University or to employment in the three main occupational groups. The corresponding figures for three previous years are also shown where these are available.

Class of School.	University.				Clerical, Professional, Shop, and Warehouse.				Farming.				Trades and Industries.			
	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Secondary ..	*	*	7	5	*	*	43	44	*	*	17	18	*	*	11	12
Technical ..	*	*	1	1	*	*	34	35	*	*	17	18	*	*	25	23
District high ..	*	*	†	1	*	*	39	33	*	*	31	34	*	*	12	13
All schools ..	3	4	4	3	46	43	40	39	17	20	19	21	13	15	16	16

* Separate figures not available. † No significant percentage.

From the above figures it will be seen that during the past four years industrial and farming occupations have been progressively finding more favour amongst the boys leaving post-primary schools. Between the years 1925 and 1928 the percentage of boys leaving post-primary schools and engaging in farming has risen from 17 to 21, and the percentage of boys entering upon trade and industrial occupations has increased from 13 to 16. In the same period the percentage of boys taking up commercial, clerical, and professional occupations has decreased from 46 to 39. The combined effect of these movements should, to some extent, remove the reproach that our post-primary schools are creating a bias away from farming and industrial pursuits. It is recognized, of course, that the movement towards farming and industrial occupations noted above may in some degree be not altogether the outcome of a change of mind on the part of those responsible for deciding the occupations of boys leaving school, but the inevitable result of the prevailing trade depression with its accompanying lack of openings in the commercial, clerical, and professional walks. At the same time, if, as is desired on almost all sides, our schools are so equipped and our system so organized that the aptitudes of pupils in the direction of farming and industry can be discovered and developed, the percentage of pupils entering what are termed “cuff-and-collar occupations” will continue to decrease.

LENGTH OF POST-PRIMARY COURSE.

The returns compiled by teachers show also the duration of the post-primary course taken by pupils who have now left school. Summarized, the position is as follows :—

	Secondary Schools.		District High Schools.		Technical High and Technical Day Schools.		All Schools.	
	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.
Leaving in first year	948	19	611	38	1,275	37	2,834	28
Leaving in second year	1,503	30	488	31	1,267	37	3,258	33
Leaving in third year	1,097	22	241	15	597	17	1,935	19
Leaving in fourth and later years..	1,447	29	256	16	327	9	2,030	20
Totals	4,995	100	1,596	100	3,466	100	10,057	100

From the above figures the average length of school life in the three classes of post-primary schools can be obtained approximately by dividing the total school life of all pupils leaving during the year by the total number of such pupils. For the purposes of this computation the school life of children leaving in the fourth and later years has been taken as four years, since the separate figures for each year after the third are not obtained by the Department. For this reason the average lengths of school life shown below will probably be one to two months lower than is actually the case.

	Average Length of School Life.	
	Years.	Months.
Secondary schools	2	7
District high schools	2	1
Technical high and technical day schools	2	0
All schools	2	4

The average school life of pupils in secondary schools in England and Wales is, according to the Board of Education Report for 1928, 4 years 1 month. It must be understood, however, that the English secondary schools admit a very large number of pupils who in New Zealand would be relegated to the primary schools. It is also explained in the report that of the schools concerned in the calculation of this average the majority are schools the bulk of whose pupils do not stay beyond the end of the school year in which they reach the age of sixteen years, and many leave at an earlier date. Warning is given that care should, therefore, be taken in drawing inferences from the average stated, in the absence of analytical information of a kind which cannot be presented in a purely statistical table.

It appears certain, however, that although for the reason given above the average length of stay at secondary schools in England is considerably longer than in New Zealand, there would appear to be little difference in the average age at which pupils leave post-primary schools in the two countries. In England and Wales the greater number of entrants to secondary schools are of ages 11 years and 12 years, so that the average leaving-age is between 15 plus and 16 plus. In New Zealand the greater number of entrants to secondary schools are 13 years or 14 years of age, and, taking the average length of stay at these schools as 2 plus, the average age of leaving post-primary schools in New Zealand is between 15 plus and 16 plus.

In the case of pupils who commence on post-primary courses and leave during the same year, the Department has been furnished with information showing in months the duration of the period of attendance of such pupils, and this information is tabulated below. The totals shown in the table are slightly below those shown as leaving in the first year in the table immediately preceding. This difference is due to the fact that the table below concerns only pupils who commenced and terminated their post-primary courses in the same year, while the table above includes under "first year" pupils who, though in the first year of a post-primary course when they left, actually commenced that course in a previous calendar year or at a private secondary school.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO COMMENCED POST-PRIMARY COURSES IN 1928 AND WHO DEFINITELY LEFT IN THE SAME YEAR.

Type of School.	During First Month of Course.	During Second Month of Course.	During Third Month of Course.	During Fourth Month of Course.	During Fifth Month of Course.	During Sixth Month of Course.	During Seventh Month of Course.	During Eighth Month of Course.	During Ninth Month of Course.	During Tenth Month of Course.	During Eleventh Month of Course.	Total.
Secondary schools	B. G. 8 4	B. G. 10 7	B. G. 8 11	B. G. 17 12	B. G. 13 14	B. G. 21 16	B. G. 42 27	B. G. 27 16	B. G. 35 14	B. G. 38 17	B. G. 292 319	B. G. 511 457
Percentage	1	2	2	3	3	4	7	4	5	6	63	100
Secondary departments of district high schools	13 14	10 6	12 18	23 10	13 16	13 14	26 14	26 11	22 16	43 23	132 127	333 269
Percentage	5	3	5	5	5	4	7	6	6	11	43	100
Technical high and day school	12 10	8 4	18 24	16 19	28 21	28 19	47 40	43 41	46 31	131 136	277 247	654 592
Percentage	2	1	3	3	4	4	7	7	6	21	42	100
Totals	33 28	28 17	38 53	56 41	54 51	62 49	115 81	96 68	103 61	212 176	701 693	1,498 1,318
Percentage	2	2	3	3	4	4	7	6	6	14	49	100

FREE PLACES.

The following table shows the number of free places held in 1928 on the dates shown :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
(i) Secondary schools (at 30th June, 1928)—			
(a) Junior free pupils	5,586	4,893	10,479
(b) Senior free pupils	2,496	1,956	4,452
Totals	8,082	6,849	14,931
(ii) District high schools (at 30th June, 1928)—			
(a) Junior free pupils	1,741	1,569	3,310
(b) Senior free pupils	372	351	723
Totals	2,113	1,920	4,033
(iii) Maori secondary schools (at 31st December, 1928)	67	83	150
(iv) Technical high schools and technical day schools (at 30th June, 1928)—			
(a) Junior free pupils	3,211	2,594	5,805
(b) Senior free pupils	634	553	1,187
Totals	3,845	3,147	6,992
(v) Third-year pupils at Kowhai and Northcote Junior High Schools (at 30th June, 1928) ..	92	115	207
Grand totals	14,199	12,114	26,313

There were on the 30th June, 1928, 27,084 children in attendance at Government schools providing secondary education, as against 25,314 in the previous year. Ninety-seven per cent. of the children in attendance in 1928 at Government schools providing secondary education were holders of free places. This liberality in the provision of free secondary education is a phase of educational policy in New Zealand which can justifiably be regarded with satisfaction. The extent to which New Zealand leads even older countries in this matter becomes apparent when it is noted that in 1928 only 40 per cent. of the pupils in attendance at secondary schools in England and Wales were free-place holders.

NUMBERS COMMENCING SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND AGES AT WHICH COMMENCED.

The question of the percentage of children who take up secondary courses after leaving primary school, and the ages at which such courses are commenced, is still frequently discussed in view of its bearing on the various suggestions for the reorganization of the education system. The numerical position regarding these matters in 1928 was as follows:—

Class of School.		Age at which Secondary Course commenced.								Total Numbers commencing Secondary Education in 1928.	
		Under 13 Years.		13 Years.		14 Years.		15 Years and over.			
		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Secondary ..		575	533	1,320	1,263	997	776	342	231	3,234	2,803
Technical ..		270	273	851	755	723	557	237	183	2,081	1,768
District high ..		237	209	484	429	350	288	135	66	1,206	992
Junior high ..		9	16	36	44	35	41	12	14	92	115
Totals ..		1,091	1,031	2,691	2,491	2,105	1,662	726	494	6,613	5,678

From the above table it will be seen that 12,291 children (6,613 boys and 5,678 girls) commenced secondary courses in 1928. This represents an increase of 864 over the number for 1927. Of the children who commenced secondary education in 1928, 491 (230 boys and 261 girls) came from private schools.

Returns furnished by Education Boards show that 22,497 children left public primary schools in 1927. Assuming that, with few exceptions, the children who commenced secondary education in 1928 completed the primary course in the previous year, it is found that of the children who left public primary schools in 1927 52 per cent. commenced secondary courses in 1928. It must be noted, of course, that not all the 22,497 children who left public primary schools in 1927 were entitled to admission to secondary schools. The number of such children who had qualified for admission to secondary schools by passing Standard VI was 17,628, and allowing for children entering secondary schools from private schools it will be seen that 11,800, or 67 per cent. of the number so qualified actually did embark on secondary courses in 1928.

STAFFS AND SALARIES.

The number of full-time teachers on the staffs of the forty-three secondary schools at the end of 1928 was 623, compared with 587 in 1927. There were 28 male and 15 female Principals and 312 male and 268 female assistants.

The average rates of salary at the end of the year were as follows, the figures for 1923 being also shown:—

	1923.	1928.
Principals—	£	£
Men	713	726
Women	546	556
Both sexes ..	651	667
Assistants—		
Men	370	390
Women	271	289
Both sexes ..	324	344
All teachers—		
Men	399	418
Women	287	303
Both sexes ..	348	366

In addition, male Principals for whom a residence was not provided received house allowance of £60 per annum.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

GENERAL.

Number of Schools.—The number of technical high schools open during 1928 was fourteen, in addition to which there were seven organized technical or art schools offering full-day courses. From the 1st January, 1927, the New Plymouth Technical Day School was amalgamated with the New Plymouth High Schools, and the statistics as far as the full-time pupils are concerned are included in the secondary schools report.

Technical classes were conducted at twenty of the twenty-one centres referred to above, and also at eighteen other centres, the total number of centres being thirty-nine.

Attendance.—The following table shows the numbers in attendance at technical schools and classes in 1928 :—

	Free.	Other.	Total.
Total number of pupils on the roll of technical high and technical day schools at 30th June, 1928	6,992	222	7,214
Total number of students in attendance at other technical classes (<i>i.e.</i> , part-time and evening classes) during 1928	5,286	5,677	10,963
Grand total	12,278	5,899	18,177

In the technical high schools and technical day schools the total enrolments increased from 7,193 in 1927 to 7,817 in 1928, and increase of nearly 9 per cent.

In the evening and part-time day classes the apparent reduction in numbers as compared with the previous year is probably due mainly to the fact that the numbers for 1928 are those on the rolls of the schools at the 30th June, whereas in previous years the total enrolments for the whole year were included.

Staffing.—On the 30th June, 1928, there were 305 full-time assistant teachers on the staffs of technical schools, besides a large number of part-time teachers. There were also twenty-one full-time student teachers, ten being males and eleven females. The following table shows the classification of the 305 full-time assistant teachers, Class VII being the highest :—

Class.	Division I.		Division II.		Totals.
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	
VII	..	1	..	4	5
VI	7	7	6	7	27
V	22	6	15	23	66
IV	27	8	10	17	62
III	27	13	20	2	62
II	17	7	9	10	43
I	19	15	4	2	40
Totals, 1928	119	57	64	65	305
Totals, 1927	111	53	66	65	295

It will be seen from the above table that the main increase has been in the number of Division I teachers (graduates).

The average rates of salary on the 30th June, 1928, were as follows : Principals (male), £649 (excluding house allowance). Assistants—Men, £401 ; women, £261 ; both, £345. All teachers (principals and assistants)—Men, £427 ; women, £261 ; both, £365.

With the inclusion of manual-training teachers employed by Education Boards the average rates of salary for all teachers (including Principals of technical schools) graded under the Regulations for Manual and Technical Instruction were as follows : Men, £408 ; women, £249 ; both, £346.

EVENING TECHNICAL CLASSES AND PART-TIME DAY CLASSES.

Classes were held at thirty-eight centres, as compared with forty-one in the previous year. The number of individual students was as follows :—

In classes conducted by Technical School Boards	..	..	..	8,787
In classes conducted by Secondary Education Boards	..	..	..	193
In classes conducted by Education Boards	..	..	..	450
In classes conducted by High School Boards	..	..	..	1,134
In classes conducted by University College Boards	..	..	..	399
Total	..	..	..	10,963

NOTE.—Oamaru transferred from a Technical School Board to a High School Board.

Of these students 5,286 held Government free places, classified as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
First year	815	474	1,289
Second year	744	376	1,120
Third year	766	453	1,219
Fourth year	608	379	987
Fifth year and over	451	220	671
	3,384	1,902	5,286

The following are some particulars of the age, sex, and occupation of students :—

SEX AND AGE.

Sex.	Under 13 Years.	13 Years.	14 Years.	15 Years.	16 Years.	17 Years to 21 Years.	Over 21 Years.	Totals.
Males	59	115	489	960	1,245	3,488	650	7,006
Females	70	147	369	652	650	1,361	708	3,957
Totals	129	262	858	1,612	1,895	4,849	1,358	10,963

SUMMARY OF OCCUPATIONS OF STUDENTS.

	Number of Students.	Percentage of Total.	1927 Percentage of Total.
Various trades and industries	5,115	46.7	46.1
Agricultural pursuits	197	1.8	1.4
Professional pursuits	650	5.9	5.5
Clerical pursuits	2,253	20.6	20.7
Domestic pursuits	1,263	11.5	11.0
No occupation	947	8.6	9.8
Other occupations, not stated	538	4.9	5.5
Totals	10,963	100.0	100.0

TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS, TECHNICAL DAY SCHOOLS, AND FULL-TIME DAY CLASSES.

At the 30th June, 1928, the numbers of pupils taking the various courses provided were as follows :—

Course.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Percentage of Totals.	
				Boys.	Girls.
Industrial	2,034	..	2,034	51·8	..
Agricultural	359	..	359	9·1	..
Domestic	..	1,019	1,019	..	31·0
Commercial	759	1,778	2,537	19·3	54·1
General	676	238	914	17·2	7·3
Art	102	249	351	2·6	7·6
Totals	3,930	3,284	7,214	100·0	100·0

It is to be noted that in some cases under the general course are included pupils preparing for the Engineering Preliminary Examination.

Of the total number of pupils (7,214) 6,992 held Government free places, classified as follows :—

—	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
First year	2,023	1,663	3,686
Second year	1,182	940	2,122
Third year	433	356	789
Fourth year	153	151	304
Fifth year	49	35	84
Sixth year	5	2	7
Totals	3,845	3,147	6,992

During 1928 4,120 new pupils were admitted, and of this number 3,849 were commencing their secondary education.

The following table shows the classification of pupils according to age at 30th June, 1928 :—

—	Under 13 Years.	13 Years.	14 Years.	15 Years.	16 Years.	17 Years.	18 Years and over.	Totals.
Boys	152	789	1,382	992	404	158	52	3,930
Girls	151	716	1,096	759	342	140	81	3,284
Totals	303	1,505	2,478	1,751	746	298	133	7,214

FINANCIAL.

The total amount due by the Department to the controlling authorities for the salaries and incidental expenses of all technical classes, including technical high and day schools for the year 1928 was approximately £188,913, made up as follows :—

Salaries—		£	£
Full-time principals and assistants	..	120,075	
Full-time student teachers	..	1,900	
Full-time teachers—overtime	..	9,542	
Capitation for part-time assistants and student teachers	..	22,507	
			154,024
Incidental allowances	..		44,799
			198,823
Less recoveries from tuition fees	..		9,910
Net amount	..		£188,913

The above figures include salaries and incidental allowances payable in respect of manual-training classes conducted by Technical School Boards.

CHILD WELFARE.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION.

The total number of children under the supervision of the Child Welfare Branch as at the 31st March, 1929, was 6,364, classed under the following headings :—

State wards boarded out, at service, in receiving-homes, &c.	..	..	4,287
State wards under supervision of Child Welfare Officers	..	..	678
Infants in registered foster-homes under Infants Act	..	..	1,007
Pupils at School for Deaf, Sumner	..	..	117
Feeble-minded persons in institutions	..	..	275
Total	..	..	6,364

The number of children committed to the care of the Superintendent during the year ended 31st March, 1929, was 650, classified according to reason for committal as follows : Indigent, 264 ; delinquent, 19 ; detrimental environments, 99 ; not under proper control, 157 ; accused or guilty of punishable offence, 84 ; neglected, 27 ; and in addition 13 were admitted by private arrangement (section 12, Child Welfare Act), while 37 were temporarily admitted, and 2 under section 47 of the Infants Act, making a total of 702.

Classified according to age at the time of admission the numbers are as follow : Under six months, 69 ; over six months and under one year, 43 ; from one to five years, 135 ; from five to ten years, 159 ; from ten to fourteen years, 143 ; and over fourteen years, 153 : total, 702.

NUMBERS UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CHILD WELFARE BRANCH.

Fully 96 per cent. of the children under fifteen years of age under the guardianship of the Child Welfare Branch are placed in foster-homes, mostly in country districts, where they have the opportunity of becoming members of some family and of being gradually absorbed into the community. The general welfare of the children is safeguarded by careful selection of foster-homes and by frequent visits by Child Welfare Officers.

The children attend the public schools and have similar opportunities of taking part in the ordinary everyday activities of the community as the child who is brought up by his own parents. The remaining 4 per cent. represent those who on account of anti-social habits or subnormality are not fit to be placed in foster-homes or allowed to attend the public school. For this small residue institutions are provided, with facilities for the training and education of the inmates along specialized lines suited as far as practicable to the peculiar needs of the individual cases.

At the end of the year there were 4,287 children under control (excluding those mentioned under separate headings below), and of these 287 were in residence at Government receiving-homes and probation homes (many of these, of course, only temporarily), training-farms, and training institutions, and 74 in the four private Roman Catholic schools recognized under the Child Welfare Act ; 2,122 children were boarded out in foster-homes, 953 were in situations, and 653 residing under license with relatives and friends. The remainder were in various private institutions.

Of the boarded out children, 162 are over the age of fourteen years, of whom 94 are still attending primary schools, and 68 are receiving higher education (34 technical and 34 secondary).

The children over school age in employment number 764 males and 440 females (a number of whom are residing with friends), included in the total of 4,287. Of the males, 582 are farm-workers (219 skilled in dairy-work and cheesemaking, and 363 competent to milk and carry out general farm-work), 54 are apprentices (of which number some are receiving assistance), and 128 others are employed in various trades. A number of these are also receiving assistance. Of the girls, there are 339 domestic workers, 60 factory employees, and 41 engaged in various employments, such as shop-assistants, nurses, dressmakers, &c.

SYSTEM OF SUPERVISION.

The number of cases dealt with by the Children's Courts last year was 2,023, and of these 533 were placed under the supervision of the Child Welfare Officers or brought under the "Big Brother" scheme as carried out by the Y.M.C.A. and the Roman Catholic authorities. The number actually admitted to institutions such as receiving-homes, special schools, training-farm, &c., was 650, but all these, with the exception of 130 who require further training, were suitably provided for in the community before the close of the year. The remainder of the children appearing before the Courts were dealt with in a summary manner not calling for supervision by a Child Welfare Officer.

INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

For the training and detention of State wards who have proved by their anti-social behaviour somewhat of a problem to manage, either in their own homes or in foster-homes or places of employment, and for those higher-grade improvable feeble-minded cases who cannot be suitably adjusted in the community, provision is made in institutions established for the purpose.

The raising of the age of a "child" from sixteen to seventeen years (Child Welfare Amendment Act, 1927) has materially increased the number of young persons (particularly girls) appearing before the Children's Courts, and in consequence further institutional provision has been necessary for such of these cases requiring training and treatment and the staff of Child Welfare Officers has had to be increased.

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION (INFANTS ACT, 1908).

Infants' Homes.—Under the provisions of Part V of the Infants Act, it is unlawful for any person to receive or retain in his care or charge any infant or any child under the age of six years for the purpose of maintaining it apart from its parents or guardians for a longer period than seven consecutive days, unless such person is licensed in accordance with this part of the Act. The duties in connection with the licensing and inspection of these homes, and the supervision of the children in such homes, are carried out by the officers of the Child Welfare Branch, who are all experienced nurses.

At the end of the year there were 1,007 children maintained in 797 licensed foster-homes. Of these, 655 homes had one child each, 93 had two children each, 36 had three children each, 10 had four children each, 1 home had five children, 1 had six children, and 1 had seven children. The payments by relatives for the maintenance of each child ranged from 5s. to £3 3s. a week, the average rate of payment being approximately 15s. 4d. per week.

Adoptions.—By an arrangement with the Department of Justice, all applications for adoptions are investigated by Child Welfare Officers before being dealt with by a Magistrate. During the year 371 children were adopted, and in 36 of these cases premiums were received by the Department's agents and paid out at the rate of 15s. a week for each child concerned. Of the total number of children adopted, 65 were under the age of six months, 37 between the age of six and twelve months, 168 between the age of one and five years, 52 between the age of five and ten years, and 49 between the age of ten and fifteen years.

INVESTIGATION OF ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

The Child Welfare Act provides for the investigation and supervision, where necessary, of all infants born out of wedlock. During the year the number of cases investigated was 1,383, of which no less than 357 were placed in foster-homes licensed under the provisions of the Infants Act. A certain number of these infants (91), through the inability of the mothers to provide properly for them, were committed to the care of the branch and placed out in foster-homes, under the child-welfare system. The remainder of the cases were suitably provided for either by their own parents or by relatives, or by admission to private institutions, and in such a manner not calling for the intervention of the Department. In a great many of these cases the assistance given by the Child Welfare Officers has been the

means not only of re-establishing the mothers in the community, but also of obtaining payments from the men responsible for their condition. The work in connection with the social readjustment of these cases is of considerable importance so far as the taxpayers are concerned. In many cases the timely intervention of the Child Welfare Officers obviates the necessity for the committal of these infants to the care of the State, the parents being made to realize their responsibilities in regard to their offspring.

INSPECTION OF ORPHANAGES.

The inspection and registration of all private institutions for children are provided for in the Child Welfare Amendment Act, 1927. The definition of a "children's home" does not include any institution conducted wholly for educational purposes. Altogether there are approximately seventy private and denominational institutions for children throughout the Dominion, and so far sixty have been inspected by the Child Welfare Branch officers and granted registration.

CARE AND TRAINING OF DEAF CHILDREN, CHILDREN WITH DEFECTIVE SPEECH, AND BLIND CHILDREN.

The pupils under instruction at the School for the Deaf, Sumner, during the year, numbered 117, and of these 11 were day pupils and 106 boarders.

The special day classes in Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin, for partially deaf children and for children with speech-defects, were continued with highly successful results. One hundred and seventy-two children attended the classes last year. Provision has also been made in these centres and in Christchurch for night classes for the instruction of the adult deaf, eighty-two persons afflicted in this manner attending the classes for the year ended 31st March, 1929.

The education of blind children is provided for at the Jubilee Institute for the Blind, Auckland, which is a private institution recognized as a "separate institution" under the Hospitals and Charitable Aid Institutions Act. Provision is made in this Act for the appointment of nine Trustees—five by the contributors and four by the Governor-General.

The Trustees are required by law to admit and maintain any blind children between the ages of six and twenty-one years that the Minister directs to be sent to the institution. For the maintenance and education of such children the Department pays at the rate of £25 a year each. At present there are 20 children so paid for (16 boys and 4 girls), but this does not represent the total number of children receiving instruction. The Trustees are at liberty to admit any suitable case when the parents are able to pay the full fee.

In addition to special classes for backward children, special classes for hard-of-hearing children and speech-defectives have been established in the four large centres. These classes are staffed by teachers trained at the Sumner School for the Deaf, and it is now decided that the classes will in future be attached to public schools under the control of the Education Boards, and that sufficient teachers will be appointed to carry out the work efficiently.

HIGHER (UNIVERSITY) EDUCATION.

The number of students on the books of the four University colleges affiliated to the University of New Zealand in 1928 was 4,802, as against 4,878 in 1927, a decrease of 76. The figures for each of the four colleges were as under:—

						1927.	1928.
Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	1,455	1,427
Victoria	..	..	..	..	..	975	1,004
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	1,248	1,092
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,200	1,279
						4,878	4,802

The total number of students described as taking definite courses at the affiliated colleges was 3,944, distributed as follows: Arts, 1,675; science, 381; medicine, 223; dentistry, 101; law, 504; commerce, 530; music, 48; engineering, 147; agriculture, 23; home science, 119; architecture, 56; journalism, 51; mining, 22; forestry, 31; massage, 19; and education, 14.

The number of exempted students was 516 in 1927 and 547 in 1928, the numbers in actual attendance at lectures being 4,362 and 4,255 respectively. The following shows the growth in the numbers of students over a period of years: 1878, 168; 1895, 742; 1900, 805; 1905, 1,158; 1915, 2,039; 1920, 3,822; 1924, 4,236; 1925, 4,442; 1928, 4,802.

Of the 4,802 students on the books in 1928, 3,410 students or 71 per cent. of the total number of students were men.

Of the students attending lectures last year the following were receiving free University education: 39 per cent. in the case of men, and 58 per cent. in the case of women, or 44 per cent. of all students. Nearly all these had their tuition fees paid by the State.

Besides University Scholarships, the gaining of which entitles the holder to free University education and certain additional assistance, the Government awards University Bursaries to all students who secure a credit pass in the University Entrance Scholarship Examination or gain a higher leaving certificate. Most of the bursars secure the latter qualification. A bursary enables a student to secure free University education to the value of £20 per annum in fees, the bursary being tenable for three years, with a possible extension to a fourth year. The following table shows the number of bursaries held in each year since the institution of this system:—

Year.	Number.	Year.	Number.
1912	38	1921	615
1914	110	1922	545
1915	230	1923	649
1916	248	1924	751
1917	246	1925	804
1918	293	1926	899
1919	444	1927	1,013
1920	539	1928	1,061

It is interesting to note that in New Zealand in 1926 the number of students for every 1,000 persons in the population was 2·98; while in New South Wales there were 1·03 students per 1,000; in Victoria, 1·53 per 1,000; in Queensland, 0·55; in South Australia, 2·78; in Western Australia, 1·48; and in Tasmania, 0·97.

Returns showing the occupations of students have been furnished with respect to last year by the four constituent University Colleges. Expressed as percentages the figures are as under:—

	Men.	Women.
Full-time students	32	43
Teachers and training-college students	22	44
Government and local-body employees	16	1
Employees of private firms	29	6
Not known	1	6
	100	100

The number of full-time students as a percentage of the total number of students attending lectures was 57 in the case of Otago, 21 in the case of Auckland, 24 in the case of Victoria, and 37 in the case of Canterbury.

The number of candidates for examinations conducted by the University of New Zealand shows an increase when compared with the previous year's figures. For the Matriculation Examination there were 5,524 candidates, as against 5,287 candidates in the previous year. Of the candidates who sat last year for the Matriculation Examination 1,824 passed, and 288 who already held partial passes completed the examination. There were 6,204 entries for the various degree examinations, compared with 6,371 in 1927.

GENERAL.

SCHOOL MUSIC.

The Supervisor of Musical Education reports that there is abundant evidence everywhere of a growing interest in the importance of musical and cultural education generally. Schools continue to avail themselves freely of the special arrangements made by the Department for the supply of pianos, gramophones, and records. During the year there were supplied to schools under this scheme 155 pianos, 213 gramophones, and many hundreds of records. The Supervisor of Musical Education made personal visits during the year to over fifty schools, and in addition gave many addresses and demonstrations to gatherings of teachers, to societies, and to the general public. A feature of the school-music pages of the *Education Gazette* has been the publication month by month of songs, many of which were composed by school-children and teachers. Each of the four training colleges has now a full-time lecturer in music on the staff, and the instruction in music at these institutions has been completely reorganized and placed on a satisfactory footing.

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS.

The annual examinations conducted by the Department are as follows: (1) An examination to determine the grant of Junior Scholarships and junior free places, held in November; (2) a main series consisting of Public Service Entrance, Senior National Scholarship, and Intermediate Examinations; (3) an August series for teachers' certificates of Classes D and C and Handicraft, and incidentally to some extent of Class B; (4) Technological examinations, and examinations for elementary kindergarten certificates.

The examinations were held at seventy-five centres in 1928. The total number of entries for all examinations was 8,630, of which number 8,197 candidates actually presented themselves for examination. 5,222 candidates were exempted from the necessity of passing the Intermediate Examination, due to the accrediting principle by which candidates for senior free places may be exempted from an external examination. The number of candidates actually presenting themselves for the various examinations during the last three years is shown below:—

	1926.	1927.	1928.
Junior National Scholarships and junior free places	2,775	2,791	1,456
Public Service Entrance, Senior National Scholarships, and Intermediate Teachers D and C	4,759	4,386	4,570
Kindergarten Certificate Examination	2,689	2,384	2,086
Special Public Service Entrance Examination in July–August	4	10	14
London University Examinations	219	..	1
Handicraft Teachers' Certificate	2	1	..
Technological examinations	13	13	17
Naval Cadetships	..	..	51
Totals	..	..	2
	10,461	9,585	8,197

It will be noted from the above figures that there was a considerable decrease in the number of candidates presented for Junior National Scholarships in 1928 as compared with the number presented in 1927. This is due to the amended regulations governing Junior National Scholarships, which reduced the age of entry from fourteen years to thirteen years.

Of the 1,313 candidates for Junior National Scholarships in 1928, 165 obtained the scholarship qualification, 757 qualified for a free place in the scholarship examination, and 556 failed. There were also 143 candidates for free places only, of whom 15 qualified and 128 failed.

Of the 1,047 candidates for Senior National Scholarships 138 gained scholarships, 695 qualified for senior free places, and 352 failed.

There were 1,240 entries for the Intermediate Examination, 1,126 candidates presenting themselves, of which number 385 passed and 741 failed to do so.

The number present at the Public Service Entrance Examination was 2,397, 1,090 of the number passing and 1,307 failing the examination.

The number of candidates who sat for the different stages of the teachers' certificate examinations was 2,086 (590 for the whole or part of Class C and 1,496 for Class D). Of the total number 275 obtained complete passes in Class D, 116 in Class C, 2 in Class B, and 1 in Class A. 1,221 improved their status and 471 failed.

The technological examinations were inaugurated in 1928, and were held in the intermediate grade only. Fifty-one candidates presented themselves for examination, of which number 32 passed and 19 failed.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION FUND.

The position of the fund at the 31st January, 1929, and the principal figures concerning the transactions for the year, compared with those for the year ended 31st January, 1928, are given below:—

	1927-28. £	1928-29. £
Balance at credit of fund at end of year	1,134,015	1,171,990
Increase over balance at end of previous year	50,860	37,976
Income for the year—		
Members' contributions	131,872	136,061
Interest	68,053	67,828
Government subsidy	71,228	72,000
Total income	£271,153	£275,889
Expenditure—		
Retiring and other allowances	188,553	207,706
Contributions refunded, &c.	26,075	26,781
Administration expenses	3,845	3,426
Bad debts on realization of securities and reserve	1,820	..
Total expenditure	£220,293	£237,913
Number of contributors at 31st January	8,680	9,281
Number of members admitted during period	841	1,160
Number retiring from the fund during period	532	559
Net increase in membership at 31st January	309	601
Number of allowances in force at end of period	1,364	1,444
Representing an annual charge of	£192,635	£210,154
Ordinary retiring-allowances	843 £149,554	911 £165,979
Retiring-allowances under extended provisions of section 75 of the Act	109 £17,504	107 £17,250
Retiring-allowances in medically unfit cases	128 £17,205	139 £18,435
Allowances to widows	195 £6,058	203 £6,306
Allowances to children	89 £2,314	84 £2,184
Funds invested at 31st January—		
At 4½ per cent.	30,350	30,250
At 5 per cent.	12,920	12,920
At 5¼ per cent.	81,160	137,260
At 6 per cent.	935,487	965,845
At 6½ per cent.	73,127	30,002
Total	£1,133,044	£1,176,277
Average rate of interest on investment at 31st January	5·87 per cent.	5·88 per cent.

SUBSIDY TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The sum of £3,000 was distributed to public libraries in country districts on the basis of subsidy on moneys raised locally by voluntary contribution. Three hundred and twenty-five libraries participated in the grant, receiving amounts varying from £6 10s. to £11 19s. The subsidy is not paid to libraries situated in towns or boroughs with a population exceeding fifteen hundred.

Parliament will be asked to appropriate a further sum of £3,000 this year to enable the payment of subsidy to be continued.

APPENDIX.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RECOVERIES

IN RESPECT OF ALL SERVICES UNDER THE CONTROL OR SUPERVISION OF THE MINISTER OF
EDUCATION DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1929.

General Administration.					£	£	£
Salaries	..	..	..	..	..	31,237	
Travelling-expenses	..	..	..	..	..	823	
Telephones	..	..	..	..	..	334	
Postage and telegrams	..	..	..	..	..	3,003	
Printing and stationery	..	..	..	..	..	3,433	
Office furniture and fittings	..	..	..	..	..	393	
Council of Education : Travelling-expenses, advertising &c. . .	..	..	..	..	..	196	
Overtime and meal-allowance	..	..	..	..	..	108	
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	..	
						39,527	
Less miscellaneous recoveries	..	..	..	..	..	1,362	38,165
Elementary Education.							
Teachers' salaries (including probationers' allowances) ..	..	..	..	..	1,737,179		
Teachers' house allowances	..	..	..	..	44,210		
General administrative purposes (including School Committees' allowances)					..	1,781,389	
Health camps	..	..	..	..	..	207	
Organizing-teachers' salaries and travelling-expenses ..	..	..	..	..	..	6,463	
Removal of teachers	..	..	..	..	..	844	
Correspondence School : Salaries, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	3,444	
Manual instruction : Salaries, capitation, and material ..	..	..	..	..	..	87,086	
School and class libraries	..	..	..	..	..	2,348	
Purchase of gramophones for schools	..	..	..	..	..	2,409	
School buildings and sites—							
Maintenance and repair of school buildings and residences					113,293		
Rent of buildings and sites used for school purposes ..					4,955		
Schools destroyed or damaged by fire : Rebuilding and repairs					16,077*		
New buildings, additions, sites, and teachers' residences : Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919					248,386†		
Inspectors—							
Salaries	..	..	..	..	33,078		
Travelling and removal expenses	..	..	..	..	10,744		
Telephones, office requisites, &c.	..	..	..	..	237		
Extra clerical assistance, typing, &c.	..	..	..	..	388		
School physical services—							
Salaries of instructors	..	..	..	..	4,986		
Courses of instruction	..	..	..	..	28		
Travelling and removal expenses	..	..	..	..	3,278		
Material : Officers' requisites, uniform allowances, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	113		
Conveyance and allowance for board of school-children railway fares, £18,617; boarding-allowances and conveyance by road and water, £50,110)					..	8,405	
Conveyance of instructors and teachers					..	68,727	
School Journal : Salaries, printing, &c.					..	7,869	
Education Gazette : Printing, &c.					..	7,433	
Subsidies on voluntary contributions on account of public primary schools, including district high schools					..	1,253	
						21,209	
Less miscellaneous recoveries (including School Journal, £808; Education Gazette, £354; teachers' salaries, £160; special examination fees, £109; Correspondence School, £264; gramophones, £3,003)					..	2,567,724	
						5,383	2,562,341‡
Secondary Education.							
Payments to Education Boards for—							
District high schools : Secondary teachers' salaries ..	..	..	..	..	..	58,254	
National Scholarships	..	..	..	..	..	11,273	
Payments to Secondary schools and colleges for—							
Salaries and incidental expenses	..	..	..	..	..	267,282	
Manual instruction capitation	..	..	..	..	..	4,606	
Subsidies on voluntary contributions	..	..	..	..	..	1,750	
New buildings, equipment, furniture, sites, &c. : Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919					44,382		
Maintenance of school buildings	..	..	..	..	1,453		
From reserves revenue in accordance with Education Reserves Amendment Act, 1914					..	45,835	
Carried forward					..	10,556	
						399,556	2,600,506

* During the financial year £12,348 was recovered from the Fire Insurance Fund in the hands of the Public Trustee.

† Includes £71 cost of raising loans.

‡ Including £56,743 from the national-endowment reserves revenue and £116,396 from primary-education reserves.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RECOVERIES, ETC.—*continued.*

	£	£	£
Brought forward	..	399,556	2,600,506
Secondary Education—<i>continued.</i>			
Conveyance of pupils to secondary and district high schools ..	..	8,618	
Marlborough High School: Statutory payment	..	400	
Inspectors' salaries	..	2,632	
Inspectors' travelling and removal expenses	..	964	
Junior High Schools: Incidental expenses	..	1,058	
Sundries	..	11	
		413,239	
Less recoveries	..	58	413,181*
Technical Education.			
Salaries of Inspectors	..	2,663	
Travelling and removal expenses of Inspectors	..	772	
Technological examinations	..	635	
Salaries and capitation, technical and continuation classes ..	..	185,483	
Buildings and permanent apparatus, &c.—			
Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	23,281		
Rents	1,381		
Maintenance of buildings	1,468		
		26,130	
Conveyance of instructors and students	..	4	
Conveyance of pupils to technical schools	..	6,199	
Expenses of instructors taking up appointments	..	45	
Subsidies on voluntary contributions	..	2,976	
Technical Schools Board: Expenses of meetings	..	..	
Sundries	..	1	
		224,908	
Less recoveries (including exam. fees, &c., £220)	..	634	224,274†
Training Colleges and Training of Teachers.			
Training colleges—			
Salaries of staff (one-half; the other half is charged to teachers' salaries, "Elementary Education")	36,563		
Allowances to students and transport expenses	116,379		
Expenses in connection with appointments to staffs	244		
Students' University college fees	6,136		
Special instruction, libraries, and incidental expenses ..	3,300		
Science apparatus and material	633		
New buildings, sites, furniture, &c.: Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	2,223		
		165,478	
Training of teachers other than at training colleges—			
Classes at subcentres	..	780	
		166,258	
Less recoveries	..	37	166,221‡
Higher Education.			
Statutory grants—			
University of New Zealand—			
New Zealand University Act, 1908	2,884		
National-endowment reserves revenue	4,521		
		7,405	
Auckland University College—			
Auckland University College Act, 1882	4,000		
New Zealand University Amendment Acts, 1919 and 1928	10,250§		
National-endowment reserves revenue	2,260		
		16,510	
Victoria University College—			
Victoria College Act, 1905	4,000		
New Zealand University Amendment Acts, 1919 and 1928	8,250§		
National-endowment reserves revenue	2,260		
		14,510	
Canterbury College—			
New Zealand University Amendment Acts, 1919 and 1928	6,500§		
National-endowment reserves revenue	2,260		
Additions to statutory grant: Finance Act, 1920 (section 43)	390		
		9,150	
University of Otago—			
New Zealand University Amendment Acts, 1919 and 1928	15,850§		
National-endowment reserves revenue	2,260		
		18,110	
Grants for new buildings, &c.—			
University of Otago	1,564		
Massey Agricultural College	32,546		
Canterbury Agricultural College	4,650		
		38,760	
Agricultural Scholarships	..	164	
Sir George Grey Scholarships	..	200	
University National Scholarships	..	3,875	
National Research Scholarships	..	50	
Carried forward	..	108,734	3,404,182

* Including £8,662 from national-endowment reserves revenue, and £10,556 from secondary-education reserves revenue.
 † Including £4,195 from national-endowment reserves revenue.
 ‡ Including £500 for Workers' Educational Association classes.

§ Includes

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RECOVERIES, ETC.—*continued.*

Brought forward	£	£	£
	..	108,734	3,404,182
Higher Education—<i>continued.</i>			
Bursaries—			
University	15,704		
Educational	812		
Agricultural	942		
Home Science	4,074		
Engineering	1,138		
		22,670	
Special assistance to deserving students	..	120	
Special Technical Classes	..	612	
Workers' Educational Association—			
Grant for organization expenses	..	1,500	
Subsidies on voluntary contributions	..	11,700	
Chairs of Education	..	3,400	
Temporary assistance, Home Science Department, Otago University	..	113	
Schools of Forestry: Maintenance	..	2,000	
Maintenance, Massey Agricultural College, Massey Agricultural College Act, 1925, Sec. 23	..	15,000	
			165,849*
Native Schools.			
Salaries (Teachers and Inspectors)	64,287		
Special allowances to teachers in isolated places	135		
		64,422	
Higher education and scholarships (including nursing scholarships)	..	5,180	
Books, school requisites, sewing-material, &c.	..	2,416	
Storage and despatch of school books, &c.	..	113	
Expenses of removals of teachers	..	439	
Inspectors travelling-expenses	..	533	
Buildings: New schools, additional class-rooms, &c.—			
Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	6,044		
Maintenance of buildings, rebuilding, repairs, &c.	3,912		
		9,956	
Manual instruction: Payment of instructors and material for classes	..	400	
Conveyance and board of children	..	2,229	
Sundries: Advertising, &c.	..	14	
Less recoveries (sale of maps, &c.)	..	85,702	
		741	
			84,961†
School for the Deaf.			
Salaries	..	5,946	
General maintenance of institution	..	2,226	
Travelling-expenses, including transit of pupils	..	337	
Maintenance of buildings, furniture, repairs, &c.	..	77	
Advertising, &c.	..	12	
Additions to buildings: Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	..	277	
Less recoveries (including maintenance payments, £2,571)	..	8,875	
		2,585	
			6,290‡
Education of the Blind.			
Grant for maintenance of Government pupils at Jubilee Institute	..	625	
Special Instruction	..	..	
Subsidies on voluntary contributions under Hospital and Charitable Aid Acts, 1909, 1910, 1913, 1923	..	1,221	
Sundries	..	24	
Less recoveries (maintenance payments)	..	1,870	
		520	
			1,350
Schools for the Feeble-minded.			
Salaries	..	7,274	
Maintenance of buildings, &c.	..	752	
Additions to buildings: Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	..	5,015	
Travelling-expenses	..	300	
Maintenance of institutions, &c.	..	7,297	
Advertising, &c.	..	16	
Less recoveries (including amounts received from parents and others and sales of farm produce)	..	20,654	
		3,435	
			17,219§
Industrial Schools, Receiving Homes, Probation System, Boarding-out System, &c.			
Maintenance of buildings	2,455		
New buildings: Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	6,985		
		9,440	
Carried forward	..	9,440	3,679,851

* Including £628 paid from national-endowment reserves revenue.
revenue and £492 paid from Tauranga Reserve endowment revenue.
§ Including £382 from national-endowment reserves revenue.

† Including £1,990 paid from national endowment reserve.
‡ Including £210 from national-endowment reserves revenue.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RECOVERIES, ETC.—*continued.*

	£	£	£
Brought forward	..	9,440	3,679,851
Industrial Schools, Receiving Homes, Probation System, Boarding-out System, &c.—<i>continued.</i>			
Salaries	..	26,392	
Boarding out of children, &c.	..	80,242	
Refund of maintenance payments	..	264	
Refund of inmates' earnings	..	25	
Travelling and removal expenses	..	8,036	
Legal expenses	..	59	
Payment to Post and Telegraph Department for services, &c.	..	686	
Rent, office requisites, &c.	..	2,138	
Maintenance of inmates in Government schools, &c.	..	24,653	
Maintenance of inmates sent to other institutions	..	180	
Maintenance of inmates in private industrial schools	..	1,559	
Wages of inmates	..	147	
Sundries	..	11	
		153,832	
Less recoveries (amounts received from parents and others, and sales of farm produce, &c.)	..	31,170	122,662*
Material and Stores.			
Salaries	..	1,322	
Stores and material purchased	..	4,423	
Lighting, cleaning, cartage, &c.	..	103	
		5,848	
Less recoveries (stores issued and issues on pay- ments)	..	5,977	Cr. 129
Miscellaneous.			
Examination expenses: Teachers', Public Service, and Scholarships	6,196		
Less recoveries	5,357		
		839	
Grading and Certificates of Teachers: Courts of Appeal, inquiries, &c.	..	488	
War bursaries	..	375	
Teachers' Superannuation Fund— Government contribution	68,040		
Additional allowances to widows and children	3,749		
		71,789	
Free Kindergartens— Government capitation	..	4,331	
Accidents to school-children and teachers	..	667	
Compassionate allowances	..	150	
Conference of Education Authorities	..	719	
Exhibitions: Preparation and forwarding of school exhibits	..	..	
New Zealand Ensigns for schools	..	..	
Purchase of motor-cars (to be recovered)	..	390	
Salaries of exchange teachers	..	815	
Storage and despatch of stores and stationery	..	36	
Subsidies to Public Libraries	..	2,998	
Sundries	..	21	
Purchase of motor-buses (for conveyance of school-children)	..	1,419	
Transfer of pupils from Wellington Technical School to Wel- lington Girls' College	..	102	
		85,139	
Less recoveries (motor-cars, £259; sundries, £10; salaries of exchange teachers, £897; sale of flags, £8; &c.)	..	1,165	83,974
Total	..	..	3,886,358

* Including £3,514 paid from the national-endowment reserves revenue.

SUMMARY.

Service.	Paid from Parlia- mentary Votes.	Paid from Reserves Revenue.	Totals.
	£	£	£
General Administration	38,165	..	38,165
Elementary Education	2,389,202	173,139	2,562,341
Secondary Education	393,963	19,218	413,181
Technical Instruction	219,235	5,039	224,274
Training Colleges, &c.	162,026	4,195	166,221
Higher Education	151,659	14,190	165,849
Native Schools	82,479	2,482	84,961
School for the Deaf	6,071	219	6,290
Education of the Blind	1,350	..	1,350
Schools for the Feeble-minded	16,837	382	17,219
Industrial Schools and Probation System	119,148	3,514	122,662
Material and Stores	Cr. 129	..	Cr. 129
Miscellaneous Services	83,974	..	83,974
Totals	3,663,980	222,378	3,886,358

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,500 copies, including illustrations), £80.

By Authority: W. A. G. SKINNER, Government Printer, Wellington.—1929.

Price 1s.]